HUNTER TRAVEL GUIDES

DALLAS & FORT WORTH ALIVE!

Kimberly Young

VISIT…

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Maps by Kim André & Lissa K. Dailey,
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Introduction

The area covered in this book is really a marriage of two North Texas regions: blackland prairie and the plains. West of Forth Worth you can see wheat undulating for miles in the stiff wind. And east of Dallas, the rolling hills are dark and dank, perfect for cotton. Only one other patch of similar terrain exists on earth (it's in Australia).

The division between the two areas lies somewhere between Dallas and Fort Worth. There's also an ideological division between the two cities. Dallas is known for its well-coiffed and well-dressed, for its trendy restaurants and eclectic nightlife. Fort Worth, the slower of the two, is more family-oriented, with daily cattle drives in the Fort Worth Stockyards and a thriving downtown area.

Culture ties the two cities together. They contain over 25 museums and countless galleries. Their art collections are some of the finest in the world. Visitors are often amazed that Fort Worth, known to many as a cow town, hosts such an amazing array of museums and was actually ahead of Dallas in establishing a vital arts district.

Like all thriving communities and cities, growth in the suburbs followed the success of Fort Worth and Dallas, encircling Dallas completely and filling in the gap between the two cities. Many of them are typical suburbs with upscale shopping and hundreds of dining choices. Others, like Carrollton and Denton, have maintained their individuality and work hard to preserve a small town feel.

The Metroplex, the grand name assigned to Fort Worth, Dallas and their suburbs, moves quickly and

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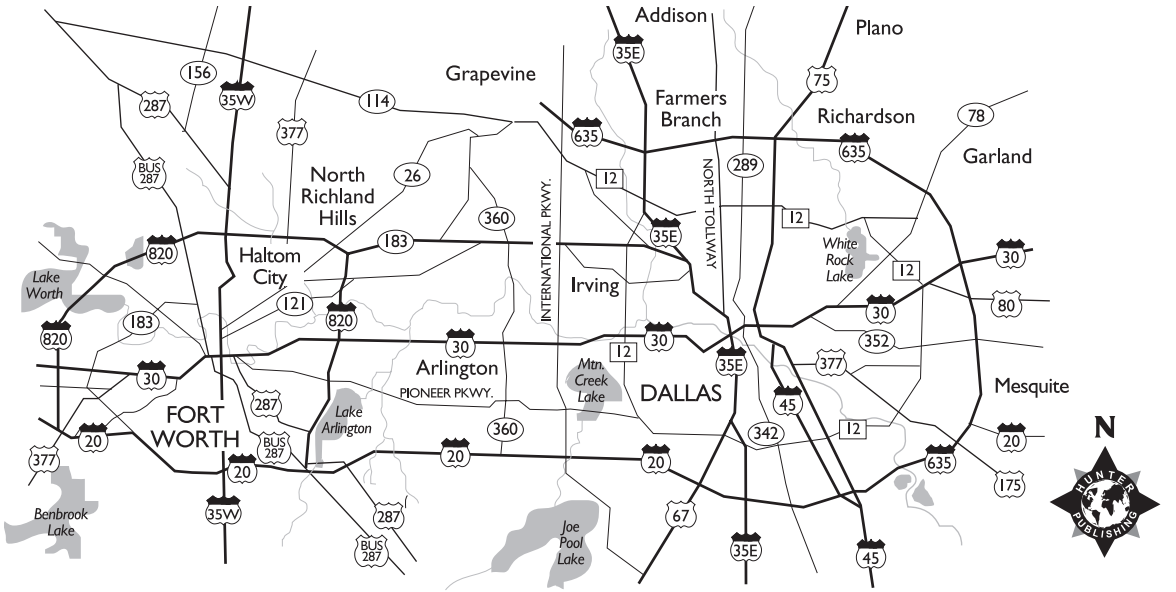
Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex Overview



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offers hundreds of entertainment, shopping and dining choices.

There are several small towns within 30 miles of the Metroplex that are perfect for a day or weekend trip. Look to the end of the book for more information on Canton, Granbury, Greenville and Waxahachie.

Weather

Weather in the area is agreeable, on average. Spring, fall and winter are all mild and pleasant. Summer will be the only cause for concern if you're not accustomed to a warmer climate. In June the average high is 91°F (33°C), which jumps to an average of 95° in July and August (35°C). Occasionally the temperature will pass the century mark in July or August.

Winter ranges from pleasant to cold, depending on weather systems making their way across the nation. Dallas, located on the southern edge of the plains, is an easy target for cold fronts, but they seldom last long.

TIP

Pack a light jacket if you'll be visiting in winter.

METROPLEX TEMPERATURES		
	High °F/C	Low °F/C
January	56/13	35/2
February	59/15	38/3

METROPLEX TEMPERATURES		
March	68/20	46/8
April	75/24	55/13
May	83/28	63/17
June	91/33	71/23
July	95/35	74/24
August	95/35	74/24
September	88/31	67/19
October	79/26	57/14
November	67/19	46/8
December	58/14	37/3

Storms can move quickly, so be prepared.

The Dallas/Fort Worth region is pummeled regularly by hail, but that won't usually affect the traveler. Tornado Alley zips out west of the area, through Wichita Falls and down south.

With its flat, high plains, the area is also very windy. The breezes blow away the heat and keep things pleasantly cool.

Transportation

Air

Air travel in the southern US centers on the **Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) Airport**. The airport is a gigantic affair. Just about every domestic airline flies through here, along with dozens of international airline companies. Southwest Airlines flies into **Love Field**, Dallas' other airport. Love Field usually caters

to the smaller flights and airlines. You won't have any problems finding a flight here.

See Useful Phone Numbers, *below, for contact information.*

Public Transit

Dallas has been doing some great work with its metro system (**DART**), so if you're not going far, a call to them is worth a try (☎ 214-979-1111).

DART offers a variety of public transit services, including buses, trolleys and light rail service. DART's light rail service is the newest and most modern urban transportation system in the country and connects to a variety of destinations, including the Dallas Zoo, West End, NorthPark Center and Dallas Museum of Art.

One of DART's most recent additions is the **McKinney Avenue Trolleys** (☎ 214-855-0006), which connect the downtown area with the McKinney entertainment district (Uptown). The transit system includes four early 20th-century trolley cars that have been authentically restored. If you're downtown, you can catch the trolley on St. Paul Street, adjacent to the Dallas Museum of Art. It will take you north, past the Woodall Rodgers Freeway to McKinney Avenue, which is lined with galleries, shops and restaurants.

Useful Phone Numbers	
DALLAS LOVE FIELD AIRPORT (Regional Airport)	
General Information	☎ 214-670-6080
American Airlines	☎ 214-267-1151
Casino Airlines	☎ 888-227-1177
Continental Express	☎ 800-525-0280
Southwest Airlines	☎ 800-435-9792

Useful Phone Numbers	
DALLAS/FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
General Information	☎ 972-574-8888
Airport Assistance Center	☎ 972-574-4420
General Aviation	☎ 972-574-3390
Ground Transportation	☎ 972-574-5878
Internet	www.dfwairport.com
Major Airlines – DFW International Airport	
America West Airlines	☎ 800-235-9292
American Airlines	☎ 800-433-7300
British Airways	☎ 800-247-9297
Canadian Airlines	☎ 800-426-7000
Continental Airlines	☎ 800-525-0280
Delta Air Lines	☎ 800-221-1212
Lufthansa Airlines	☎ 800-645-3880
Northwest Airlines	☎ 888-757-5387
TWA	☎ 800-221-2000
USAirways	☎ 800-428-4322
United Airlines	☎ 800-241-6522
Charter Airlines & Others at DFW International Airport	
Aero California	☎ 800-237-6225
Aerolitoral	☎ 800-237-6639
Aeromexico	☎ 800-237-6639
AirTran Airways	☎ 800-247-8726
American Eagle Airlines	☎ 800-433-7300
American Trans Air (ATA)	☎ 800-225-2995
Atlantic Southeast	☎ 800-282-3424

Useful Phone Numbers	
Big Sky	☎ 800-237-7788
China Airlines	☎ 800-227-5118
Frontier	☎ 800-432-1359
Fun Jet Tour Company	☎ 972-258-0709
Grupo Taca (Aviateca, TACA, LACSA)	☎ 800-327-9832
Iberia	☎ 800-772-4642
Japan Airlines	☎ 800-525-3663
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines	☎ 800-223-0593
Korean Air	☎ 800-438-5000
Mesa Airlines	☎ 800-637-2247
Midwest Express	☎ 800-452-2022
National	☎ 800-225-2525
Northwest Airlines	☎ 888-757-5387
Qantas	☎ 800-227-4500
South African Airways	☎ 800-722-9675
Sun Country	☎ 800-752-1218
Swissair	☎ 800-221-4750
TAM Brazilian	☎ 800-235-9826
Vanguard Airlines	☎ 800-826-4827
Western Pacific Airlines	☎ 800-930-3030
TRANSPORTATION WHILE IN DALLAS	
Airport Shuttle Services	
The Airporter	☎ 817-215-8600
Big Tex Shuttle	☎ 214-352-9700
Classic Shuttle	☎ 214-841-1900
Discount Shuttle	☎ 817-267-5150
SuperShuttle	☎ 817-329-2000

Useful Phone Numbers	
TRANSPORTATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	
DART Paratransit Service	☎ 214-515-7272
DFW Assistance Center	☎ 972-574-4422
Mobility Impaired Transportation Service	☎ 817-215-8987
HELICOPTER SERVICES	
All-Star Helicopters Inc.	☎ 972-250-9907
Dallas Heliport	☎ 214-670-4338
Zebra Air	☎ 214-358-7200
MASS TRANSIT	
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)	☎ 214-979-1111
DART Bus Service	☎ 214-979-1111
DART Light Rail	☎ 214-979-1111
DART Trolley-Buses	☎ 214-979-1111
TAXI CAB OPERATORS	
Allied Taxi Company	☎ 214-654-4444
Big Tex	☎ 214-350-4590
Checker Cab Company	☎ 214-426-6262
Choice Cab	☎ 972-222-2000
City Cab	☎ 214-902-7020
Cowboy Cab Company	☎ 214-428-0202
Eagle Cab	☎ 214-421-7788
Executive Taxi	☎ 972-554-1212
Golden Cab	☎ 972-484-4848
King Cab	☎ 972-241-3337
Ranger Cab	☎ 214-421-9991

Useful Phone Numbers	
Republic Taxi	☎ 214-902-7077
State Cab	☎ 214-630-9595
Taxi Dallas	☎ 214-821-8294
Terminal Taxi	☎ 214-350-4445
WestEnd Cab Company	☎ 214-902-7000
Yellow Cab of Dallas	☎ 214-426-6262

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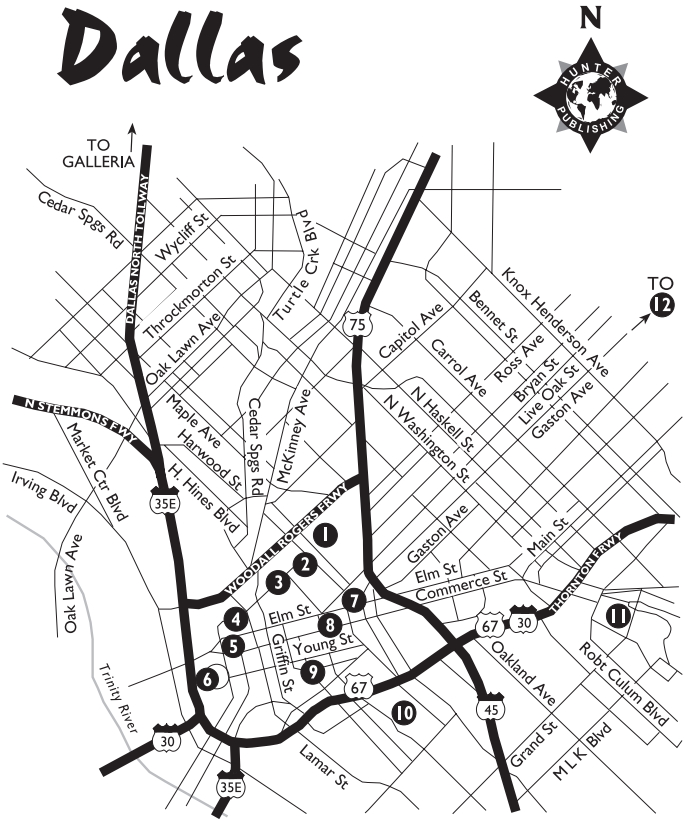
Dallas



1. Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Ctr
2. Trammell Crow Sculpture Garden
3. Dallas Museum of Art
4. West End Marketplace
5. Dealey Plaza Historical Landmark District, Sixth Floor Museum
6. Reunion Park / Reunion Tower
7. Majestic Theater
8. Neiman Marcus
9. Pioneer Plaza
10. Old City Park
11. Fair Park, African-American Museum, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Hall of State, Science Place
12. Arboretum & Botanical Garden

Dallas

Created at the crossroads of commerce, Dallas – Big D – is a curious mix of a million residents and the hot North Texas earth. Unlike its neighbor Fort Worth to the west, which embraces cowboys and country, Dallas prides itself on its conservative spirit, its religious ethic and its big corporate buildings. It's a white-collar town where cut-off shorts earn strange stares and businessmen wear three-piece suits despite 100° weather. It is cosmopolitan, in a state where such polish is unusual.

The city has been one of the most visible in Texas. It is mistakenly identified as the state capital on more occasions than Austinites would like to admit. But that's because it hit the international spotlight like no other Texas town. It was home to the Ewing gang and their ranch mansion, Southfork, on the *Dallas* TV series. It's still home to the Dallas Cowboys, America's most loved or hated football franchise, depending on whom you ask. It was where Nolan Ryan finished out his spectacular baseball career pitching for the Texas Rangers.

And, unfortunately, no one will forget that it was the city in which President John F. Kennedy said his last words before being assassinated on November 22, 1963.

Histozy

The ostentatious spirit that Texans are known for most certainly began early in the state's history. The first settler, John Neely Bryan, built his cabin in 1841

on the banks of the Trinity River and then widely publicized his new "town" of one. Within a year, two more families joined him. When the railroads came to town in 1873, the population soared beyond 7,000.

Early on, Dallas began its social ascension. One of the earliest cosmopolitan influences was brought by Francois Cantagrel, who formed a utopian society called La Reunion on the bluffs a few miles west of Dallas. He brought around 300 French, Belgian, American and Swiss socialists to his planned community. The enclave of artists and idealists failed, a result of poor management and placement. Some of the Europeans returned home, but many of the scientists, musicians and writers moved to Dallas, lending the growing town a cultured air.

That Dallas became what it is today, a massive hub for many industries, is curious, considering it was not as well endowed as many other Texas cities. Galveston and Houston were both natural ports. El Paso was a natural pass both west and south. The Trinity River, which bisects Dallas, wasn't even navigable. But that was no matter. It became the biggest inland cotton market in the world and was the largest publishing hub in the South.

Dallas pulled off its biggest coup in 1936 by landing the Texas centennial celebration with a bid of $10 million and a pledge of 242 acres. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ginger Rogers, Shirley Temple, Jack Dempsey and hundreds of thousands of other people attended the celebration. It was estimated that, between the Texas Centennial Celebration and 1937's Pan American Exposition, over 13 million visitors walked the streets of Dallas. Much to the chagrin of older cities like Houston and Galveston, which had actually been around in 1836 at the beginning of the centennial, Big D became the perpetual host.

While Dallas' first boom was launched by the railroads, subsequent booms (and busts) followed cotton, oil, insurance, real estate, banking and the computer industries. It has become a center for several major corporations, including J.C. Penney, American Airlines, Mary Kay Cosmetics and the Boy Scouts.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

The first convenience store, 7-Eleven, was opened in Dallas on July 11, 1927 (7/11/27). The world's first microchip was created at the local Texas Instruments facility.

Visitor Information

DALLAS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER
100 South Houston St., 75202, www.dallascvb.com,
☎ 214-571-1000

Open seven days a week and conveniently located adjacent to Dealey Plaza in the Old Red Courthouse, the visitor's center is the new tenant in this majestic, completely restored building from 1892. Everything inside has been revamped and it offers an Internet Café and audio/visual rooms with videos on the city and its attractions. Many of the videos are offered in several languages.

SPECIAL EVENTS HOTLINE
☎ 214-571-1301

The Dallas Convention and Visitor's Bureau doesn't want you to miss out on special one-time events so they have created a hotline to post information for travelers. The hotline includes information from sev-

eral areas: exhibits and sites, entertainment and events, things to see and do, typically Texas events, music and sports. Each event listing includes a phone number to call for further information. You can change categories by pressing the star key and can reach an operator by pressing zero.

Things to Do

Historic Sites

THE BELO MANSION
2101 Ross Ave, ☎ 214-220-7400

The Belo Mansion sits apart from the other high-end housing districts. Alfred Belo, founder of the *Dallas Morning News*, got to enjoy the mansion he had built for only a year before his death in 1901. Today, the Dallas Bar Association and the Dallas Bar Foundation have their offices in the grande dame, but tours are allowed during certain times. Call them for details.

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL PLAZA
Bounded by Market, Elm,
Houston and Commerce streets

On the western edge of this plaza sits the Dallas Visitor Information Center, housed in a magnificently refurbished former county courthouse. The courthouse is particularly striking, with Romanesque turrets and a construction that includes vivid red granite mined in Texas and blue granite brought in from Arkansas.

The **John Neely Bryan Cabin** is on the eastern portion of the plaza. The one-room log cabin is not the actual cabin Bryan lived in – it's a reconstructed effort built to resemble what one in the 1840s would have

looked like. A memorial to President John F. Kennedy (see entry for John F. Kennedy Memorial below) also adorns the grounds.

DEALEY PLAZA PARK
Intersection of Houston and Main Street

Adjacent to the former Texas School Book Depository where President John F. Kennedy was shot sits Dealey Plaza Park, which now pays tribute to Kennedy. On November 22, 1993, the 30th anniversary of JFK's death, Dealey Plaza was designated a National Historic Landmark District.

This memorial park includes the infamous grassy knoll and a reflecting pool.

The area has changed little since the assassination.

JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL
Intersection of Main Street and Market

Two blocks east of Dealey Plaza, in the Dallas County Historical Plaza, sits a tribute to Kennedy designed by family friend Philip Johnson. The 50-foot-square, open-roofed monument was constructed to resemble an open tomb and pays tribute to Kennedy with a simple inscription of his name on black marble. Around the anniversary of his death, Nov. 22, you'll find notes, flowers and other memorabilia left at the memorial by visitors.

MAJESTIC THEATER
1925 Elm Street, 75201, ☎ 214-880-0137

Opening in April, 1921, after a $2 million construction that included marble staircases, crystal chandeliers and incredible Italian-inspired fountains, the Majestic Theater became the heart of Dallas' Theater Row. Its construction at the time was considered wizardry, with no obtrusive columns to hinder sight from any part of the theater. It was certainly grand for the time, with seating for over 2,400 visitors. Today's refurbished Majestic seats around 1,600 and is still grand.

Until the 1930s, it hosted all of vaudeville. When movies became the new thing, it created a sound and screen system. However, movie audiences began to dwindle in the 1960s and 70s; in 1973, the Majestic closed its doors. Famous faces that have performed here include Houdini, Mae West, Bob Hope, James Stewart, John Wayne, Milton Berle, Ginger Rogers and countless others.

The theater was rededicated in 1983 after restoration and is currently run by the City of Dallas. Though it is dwarfed by many of downtown's skyscrapers, its neon sign and careful construction make it one of Dallas' treasures. It hosts a continuous stream of plays, musicals, exhibitions and corporate events.

SWISS AVENUE

Swiss Avenue had been the most prominent area of town up until World War I. Settled by Europeans in the 1850s, the houses and estates, especially along Swiss and Gaston Avenues, were grand affairs. Most of the houses – many of mansion proportions – fell into decay by the 1960s. A preservation effort began in the 70s and continues today. You'll notice great disparities as you wander through the neighborhood, with pockets of grandeur a block away from properties close to condemnation.

FAIR PARK

Bounded by Parry Ave., Cullum Blvd., Fitzhugh Ave. and Washington Ave., ☎ 214-421-9600 (Friends of Fair Park visitor information)

Grover Cleveland was President when Texas organized its first state fair in 1886. Back then, the 80 acres it chose were empty, bald land east of downtown Dallas. The center of this fair was a one-mile horse-racing track.

In 1936, Texas celebrated its 100th anniversary of independence from Mexico by staging the biggest fair it could imagine. The Texas Centennial Exposition of 1936 attracted dignitaries from around the world and included so many architecturally solid buildings that the state fair became a permanent fixture, with Fair Park its home.

The City of Dallas has engulfed the once-rural area, but the art deco structures built in the 1930s remain. In fact, partly because of them, Fair Park has been designated a National Historic Landmark, the largest in Texas.

Today, the **Cotton Bowl** serves as the centerpiece to this grand 277-acre affair. In addition to hosting a slew of local games and attractions, each year it is filled with college footfall fans.

Texas-OU weekend, usually the second weekend in October, pits the University of Texas against Oklahoma University. The two schools long ago established a tradition of meeting midway between their homes for their annual football match. The Cotton Bowl, played New Year's Day, is a perennial bowl favorite.

The actual **State Fair of Texas** takes place each year from late September to late October. **Fair Park**, though, includes a number of permanent attractions that are open year-round. They include the African American Museum, the Age of Steam Railroad Museum, the Dallas Museum of Natural History, the Science Place and IMAX Theater, the Dallas Aquarium and the Dallas Horticulture Center (see below for details on these attractions).

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
3536 Grand Avenue
www.dallasblack.com/channel1/aam
☎ 214-565-9026
Mon.-Fri., noon-5 pm, Sat., noon-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm

The African American Museum, the only museum in the Southwest dedicated to preserving and showcasing African American history and art, began as a part of Bishop College. It has been independent since 1979 and moved into its carefully crafted building in Fair Park in 1993. The building, made of ivory stone in the shape of a cross, includes many details that are representative of African history.

The permanent displays include both contemporary work from African artists and traditional masks, sculptures, gold weights and textiles. The museum is very proud to display the Billy R. Allen Folk Art Collection, one of the finest collections of folk art, featuring pieces by internationally known artists. In addition to its permanent collection, the museum hosts a wide variety of traveling exhibits. A research area includes the *Sepia Magazine* archives, the Freedman's Cemetery Collection, the Texas Black Women's History Archives and the Dallas County Black Political Archives.

One of the most popular events here is "Jazz Under the Dome," held the third Friday night of the month.

Every year in September the museum sponsors a jazz festival.

AGE OF STEAM RAILROAD MUSEUM
1105 Washington, Fair Park, ☎ 214-428-0101
Wed.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm

Some of the largest and most powerful locomotives in the world are part of the Age of Steam Museum's historic collection. Almost 30 pieces of railroad equipment, including Dallas' oldest surviving depot and luxurious pullman sleeping and lounge cars, make up

the exhibit. Curators will invite you to climb aboard many of the pieces to get a closer look at travel by rail as it was in the early 20th century.

DALLAS MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
3535 Grand Avenue
☎ 214-421-DINO
www.dallasdino.org
Mon.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm

Since being founded in 1936, the Dallas Museum of Natural History has taken an active role in documenting the physical makeup of Texas and the earth. More than 280,000 specimens are included in the museum's collection. Archeologists and paleontologists are part of the museum's permanent staff.

More than 50 dioramas guide visitors through the natural habitats and creatures of Texas, ranging from extinct species to animals exist today. Soil, rocks and plants were taken from their natural habitat and nationally known landscape artists were hired to create the backdrops. Many of the leaves were individually made of wax.

While the museum has taken great pains to emulate the natural environment, it has also created a blueprint for enjoying nature just outside its doors. The **Leonhardt Lagoon Nature Walk**, ringing the lagoon next to the museum, includes markers and written commentary by the Natural History Museum's staff.

THE DALLAS AQUARIUM
1462 First Avenue & MLK Blvd., 75226
☎ 214-670-8443
Mon.-Sun., 9 am-4:30 pm

Opened in 1964 and now under the management of the Dallas Zoo, the Aquarium in Fair Park has close to 5,000 species on display. Home to marine and fresh-

water fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, the aquarium is also very active in research and conservation efforts.

The piranha tank, filled with the red-bellied fish from the Amazon, consistently draws a crowd.

You can watch them feed various animals each day at 2:30 pm (except Monday), with Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday featuring the popular piranha feedings.

You can also peek into some of the breeding grounds and see what type of research the aquarium is up to.

One of the aquarium's newer exhibits features moon jellyfish, which are 96% water and can reach up to 20 inches in diameter.

Some of the creatures here include four-eyed fish, venomous lion fish, a five-foot electric eel, a six-foot alligator gar, walking batfish, nearly invisible jellyfish, and an alligator snapping turtle that tips the scales at 135 pounds.

THE SCIENCE PLACE AND IMAX THEATER
1318 Second Ave., Fair Park
☎ 214-428-5555, www.scienceplace.org
Open 7 days a week, 9:30 am-5:30 pm

Kids of all ages will enjoy over 350 hands-on scientific and educational displays that show how and why hundreds of things work. Activities range from those appropriate for smaller children, like the "Numbers Forest" and a display on how to brush your teeth, to interactive presentations on the fundamentals of mathematics and physics. The TU Electric Theater includes over 4,000 years of inventions and scientific discoveries in its repertoire. Your hair will stand on end and lightning bolts will cross the room.

There's a planetarium in the next building – you can buy combination tickets for all three activities.

The IMAX theater, one of 150 in the world, usually carries three or four different films at a time, and on weekends shows are given almost every hour.

DALLAS HORTICULTURE CENTER
3601 Martin Luther King Blvd., ☎ 214-428-7476

Founded in 1941 as the Dallas Garden Center, the Horticulture Center includes more than 10 different gardens and a conservatory spread out over seven acres of display area. Among the gardens are the Kilgore Antique Rose Garden, the Iris Display Garden and the Herb and Scent Garden. One of the most popular is the Grand Allée du Meadows, a classic French garden, complete with a 50-foot fountain. Within the glass conservatory you'll find a rare collection of African flora donated to the center in 1989 by the Meadows Foundation. Most of the gardens are flowering between March and November. The African collection, however, begins flowering in November, with its peak period in February and March.

The display gardens are open year-round from dawn to dusk, and the visitor center and conservatory are open Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.

Museums, Galleries & Theaters

Although within Dallas there are approximately a million residents, if you include its suburbs and the surrounding area, there are closer to four million, making for a rich and culturally diverse environment.

Art plays a central role for Dallas. Historically, much of the area's art was scattered throughout the city. As part of the downtown's renaissance, the **Dallas Art District** was created.

Located on 60 acres on the north side of downtown, it is the largest development of its kind in the nation. It was opened in 1983 with the goal of centralizing the arts community and providing adequate facilities for its organizations. It is anchored by the Dallas Mu-

The Arts District is connected to dining and shopping by the McKinney Avenue Trolley (see Transportation page 5).

seum of Art, the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, the Arts District Theater of the Dallas Theater School and the Arts Magnet School.

Of course, even though 60 acres is a large area, it's not enough to house all the arts of Dallas. You'll find art in several areas, including college campuses, Fair Park and several entertainment districts.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF THE MINIATURE ARTS
2001 North Lamar
☎ 214-969-5502
Tues.-Sat., 10 am-4:30 pm, Sun., 1-4 pm

Formerly the Dollhouse Museum of the Southwest, the museum moved into its new, bigger home in late 1999. Its new name reflects both the multi-million-dollar upgrade and the museum's expanding collection. With two stories of carefully crafted miniatures, and a third to open in late 2000, the museum includes more than dollhouses.

Highlights include a replica of the Wizard of Oz set as it looked in 1939 and a miniature version of Mount Pleasant, the house Benedict Arnold bought for his wife.

DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART
1717 Harwood, Downtown Arts District
☎ 214-922-1200, www.dm-art.org
Tues.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm; Thurs., 11 am-9 pm; closed Mon.

The Dallas Museum of Art provides the heart for downtown's arts district. Previously located in Fair Park, the museum moved to its new home in 1984. Its "home" is a work of art as well, designed by Edward Larabee Barnes and heralded as a masterpiece.

The museum's sheer size allows it to have a variety of thorough collections. Its European collection includes works by Cezanne, Monet, van Gogh, Degas, Gauguin, Picasso and Vuillard. The African collection shows works from many of the sub-Saharan tribes and the Egyptian section displays important sculptural pieces.

The Art of the Americas, one of the DMA's strongest collections, includes pieces from many of the world's vanished civilizations: Anasazi, Aztec, Maya and Nasca.

The collection extends all the way to contemporary American artists like Pollock and Warhol.

Students of art, both professional and amateur, should stop by the **Mildred R. and Frederick M. Mayer Library**. In addition to providing information about specific exhibits and artists showcased at the DMA, the library also includes general information on art that ranges from ancient to contemporary. More than 30,000 volumes are on hand, with the number growing annually by 1,000 volumes. There's also a wide selection of periodicals, including catalogs from Sotheby's and Christie's.

On weekends a free public tour begins at 2 pm at the visitor services desk. During the week, the same tour begins at 1. Thursdays are special days for the museum, with live music, talks and extended hours. A variety of lectures, films and presentations round out the museum's calendar. Call ahead for specific information.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS
2200 North Pearl Street, 75201
☎ 214-922-6000, www.dallasfed.org
Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm

The Federal Reserve in Dallas, one of 12 regional Federal Reserves in the country, couples an exceptional art collection with its massive and fantastic down-

The keystone for the collection is a Luis Jimenez fiberglass sculpture, "Sodbuster," depicting a farmer and two oxen.

town home. Located on eight acres adjacent to the Arts District in the historic State-Thomas neighborhood, the reserve is on the northeast corner of Woodall Rodgers Freeway and Pearl Street.

Its art includes pieces from Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico, the states under this Reserve's direction. It is comprised of contemporary works, including sculpture, oil and acrylic paintings, photographs, lithographs, collages, pen and ink drawings and a sound sculpture.

The Federal Reserve claims that if you stacked up all of the currency in their vault, the pile would be 17 miles high.

Once you're done perusing the art collection, look around the Fed's 17-story building. Opened in 1992, the ground floor alone covers six acres, roughly the space available in a 12-story building. Currency is kept in the basement, a five-story vault equipped with a seismic monitor, heat and motion detectors and steel-reinforced, 18-inch-thick walls.

THE MCKINNEY AVENUE CONTEMPORARY
3120 McKinney Ave., 75204
☎ 214-953-1212, www.the-mac.org
Open Wed.-Sat., 11 am-10 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm

A small on-site Cyber Café offers free use of the Internet, with links to some of the nation's top art sites bookmarked.

Opening its doors in late 1994, the MAC is many things to many people, serving as an artistic hub for the community. Two of its three galleries host contemporary exhibits that can be either international or regional and rotate every six weeks. The third gallery, the New Works space, is usually dedicated to emerging artists, like graduate art students, from the region. Exhibits here rotate more frequently, usually every three weeks.

Two performance theaters are used for plays, poetry readings, dance programs, movie festivals, community classes, lectures and anything else that might present itself.

MEADOWS MUSEUM OF CULTURES
Southern Methodist University campus, Bishop Boulevard at Binkley Avenue
☎ 214-768-2516, www.smu.edu/~meadows/museum, Mon., Tues., Fri., Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Thurs 10 am-8 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm; closed Wednesdays and University holidays

What began as a Dallas businessman's gentle interest in Spanish art has evolved into one of the most comprehensive Spanish collections in the world outside of Spain. Algur Hurtle Meadows began collecting Spanish pieces while on business trips in the 1950s. In 1962, he donated the works to SMU in memory of his late wife. Opening in 1965, the Meadows Museum has earned international recognition for its permanent collection, which includes pieces from the 10th century through the 20th century.

With close to 700 masterpieces – by artists like Velázquez, Ribera, Montañés, Murillo, Goya, Picasso and Miró – the museum's collection commands world attention. In addition to an extensive permanent Spanish collection, the Meadows also hosts touring exhibits from Spanish-speaking countries, offering a diverse cultural backdrop.

There is a free public tour every Sunday at 2 pm.

MORTON H. MEYERSON SYMPHONY CENTER
2301 Flora Street, 75201
Arts District
☎ 214-670-3600
Call for tour information

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Wind Symphony and the Turtle Creek Chorale all work from the 2,000-seat Meyerson Symphony Center, a key anchor in the downtown Arts District. Morton Meyerson was one of H. Ross Perot's primary assis-

tants, and Perot, the chief donor for the center, chose to name the center for him.

Internationally recognized architect I.M. Pei designed the Symphony Center, which opened to rave reviews in 1989. Every seat in the concert hall is a great one. The acoustics, designed by a master acoustician, are some of the finest in the world. The center also houses a hand-built 4,535-pipe Fisk organ, the largest mechanical-action organ ever built for a concert hall.

BIBLICAL ARTS CENTER
7500 Park Lane
☎ 214-691-4661
www.biblicalarts.org
Tues.-Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm
Free, except for Miracle at Pentecost presentation and special exhibits

Dallas philanthropist Mattie Caruth Byrd envisioned the Biblical Arts Center as a non-denominational center where people of all faiths could witness the different ways the Bible has been interpreted through art. Though she died before her dream was completed, her project was finished and lives on through a foundation she funded.

The centerpiece for the center, which displays a variety of permanent and touring exhibits, is the Miracle of Pentecost presentation and 30-minute show. A 124-foot-long, 20-foot-high mural depicts the reception of the Holy Spirit by the Apostles. The mural, which took almost three years to complete, includes more than 200 characters from the Bible. Shows begin on the half-hour.

DALLAS FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM
3801 Parry, across from Fair Park
☎ 214-821-1500
Wed.-Sat., 9 am-4 pm

This was an actual working fire station until 1975, so you may have to ring the doorbell before going in. Inside, you'll find firefighting equipment from throughout the last century.

They preserved the original living quarters, complete with the brass sliding pole.

OLD CITY PARK
1717 Gano
☎ 214-421-5141
www.oldcitypark.org
Tues.-Sat., 10 am-4 pm; Sun., noon-4 pm

The downtown district is home to Old City Park, a small village museum of 38 buildings constructed between 1840 and 1910. Each building, including a schoolhouse, bank and church, was moved to the site from towns across north Texas and restored to their original condition.

Operated by the Dallas Historical Society, the park includes a gift shop and Brent Place, a restaurant run out of a 19th-century farmhouse.

THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM
411 Elm, near the West End District
☎ 214-747-6660
Open Mon.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

Perhaps the most somber museum in town, attracting half a million visitors annually, is the Sixth Floor Exhibit in the former School Book Depository building where Lee Harvey Oswald targeted President John F. Kennedy.

Neither the Kennedy family nor area residents wanted this museum originally. Dallas residents wanted to close the book on this sad chapter in American history. When it became apparent that visitors were going to visit the site of the assassination, mu-

seum or not, a memorial was instituted that opened its doors in 1989.

Recent additions to the museum include heirlooms from the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis estate.

Run by the Dallas County Historical Foundation, the museum pays tribute to Kennedy and traces the fateful moments of November 22, 1963. Oswald's perch on the sixth floor, now encased in Plexiglas, has become an exhibit. Among the other exhibits are the video camera used by Abraham Zapruder to make the only full video of the assassination and a model of Dealey Plaza made by the FBI for the Warren Commission. There are over 400 photos and audio tours are available in seven languages for a fee.

THE CONSPIRACY MUSEUM
110 S. Market St., across from JFK Memorial
☎ 214-741-3040
Mon.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm

The enduring suspicion that John F. Kennedy's assassination was part of a larger conspiracy provided fuel for the creation of the Conspiracy Musuem, privately funded by a retired architect. It also includes theories on the assassination of Robert Kennedy and the "framing" of Edward Kennedy at Chappaquiddick. But the museum covers more than JFK; it offers a variety of theories for the assassinations of several other Presidents, including Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley. In addition to providing tours of their own facility, museum staff will conduct tours outside their building in the area where JFK was assassinated.

TRAMMELL CROW
COLLECTION OF ASIAN ARTS
2010 Flora St.
☎ 214-979-6430
www.crowcollection.org
Tues.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm; Thurs., 11 am-9 pm

The Trammell and Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art, adjacent to the Trammell Crow Center and

Sculpture Garden and across from the Dallas Museum of Art, was truly a labor of love for Dallas' Crow family. Trammell and Margaret, who amassed their fortune in real estate ventures, had been collecting Asian art for over 30 years, much of it bought by the lot to decorate hotels and offices that they managed and owned.

The world's second-largest flawless crystal ball is also on display here.

Their entire collection of 7,000 pieces has been hand-selected and the 300+ works of art on display in their museum are spectacular. The pieces range from a 2,000 lb. bronze Confucius sculpture to over 100 small bits of exquisite jade, part of Trammell's collection of over 1,200 jade items. Many of the pieces, like a sandstone Mughal Wall from an 18th-century Indian home, were so massive that a structural engineer was consulted for advice on proper placement and support.

Shopping

There's a saying about Dallas shopping: "If it can't be bought in Dallas, it can't be bought anywhere." While part of that might be a little Texas bravado, it's mostly true.

Dallas boasts more shopping centers per capita than any other US city. Not only is it home to Neiman Marcus, created here in 1907, it is headquarters for retail giant JC Penney. Highland Park Village was the first shopping center in the country.

Several internationally known designers, including Todd Oldham and Victor Costa, call Dallas home.

In addition to being a retail center, the Dallas Market Center is one of the world's largest wholesale trade complexes. Its 9.2 million square feet, spread over 175 acres, host more than 200,000 buyers annually and rings up more than $7.5 billion in sales.

DALLAS FARMERS' MARKET
1010 South Pearl
☎ 214-939-2808
Mon.-Sun., 7 am-6 pm

Hundreds of farmers show up daily to make one of the largest farmers' markets in the country. You'll also find growers peddling herbs, flowers and plants. Each morning they spread out over a four-block area. You can call ahead to find out what produce is most likely to be found for the season.

On weekends, the International Marketplace opens, selling gourmet goods, decorative gifts and products from around the world.

HIGHLAND PARK VILLAGE
Mockingbird Lane and Preston Road
☎ 214-559-2740
www.hpvillage.com

When the founders of Highland Park went about designing a shopping center for their new town, they did it with the same thoroughness and eye for detail that has made Highland Park one of the most beautiful and exclusive neighborhoods in America.

This complex, opened in 1931, was the first shopping center in the nation.

A Mediterranean Spanish masterpiece, the center's charm has lasted throughout the century.

More than 80 shops, restaurants and offices are part of today's Highland Park Village. You'll find both exclusive and eclectic retailers. Among the better-known are Ann Taylor, Calvin Klein, Hermès, Chanel, Prada, St. John, Escada, and Williams-Sonoma.

The Village also houses an array of restaurants that don't fit into the "mall food" mode. Try **Café Pacific**, **Café Highland Park** or **Mi Cocina**, all of which have garnered multiple stars from reviewers.

GALLERIA
I-35 at Dallas Parkway North
☎ 972-702-7100

The vaulted skylight over the ice skating rink will be your first clue that this mall is top of the line. There are over 200 merchants scattered along the Galleria's four levels. Macy's, Marshall Fields, Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue all have one home in Dallas – at the Galleria. Other tenants include Gucci, Tiffany & Co., Gianni Versace and Louis Vuitton.

There are over 25 dining choices at the Galleria, ranging from fast food to full service.

NORTHPARK CENTER
Northwest Hwy and Central Exp.
☎ 214-361-6345 (customer service) or 214-363-7441

When it was opened in 1965, NorthPark was considered one of the most elegant shopping centers in Texas. Constant attention and renovation over the last 30 years has kept it at the top of the list. Retailers include Neiman Marcus, Burberry, Tiffany & Co., FAO Schwartz, Dooney & Bourke, Lord & Taylor, Bally, J. Crew, Montblanc, Dillard's, Coach, Joan & David, JC Penney, Foley's and more.

NorthPark puts on quite a celebration during the Christmas season, with shows and activities for the kids.

FESTIVAL MARKETPLACE MALL
2900 East Pioneer Parkway at Highway 360
Arlington
☎ 877-877-3378

One of the newest additions to the Dallas mall landscape, Festival Marketplace includes 200 specialty stores, along with a traditional farmers' market. Stores include a Dillard's Clearance Center, Wards, Piccadilly and Iron Works. The farmers' market is open Tues.-Sat., 10 am-8 pm and Sun., noon-6 pm.

On Mondays the mall is closed, but Dillard's and Wards stay open.

INWOOD TRADE CENTER
1300 Inwood Road at Irving Blvd.
☎ 214-521-4777

If you like a deal, then try Inwood, home to over 20 outlet stores, including Crate & Barrel, Simmons

Mattress, Schumacher/Waverly, the Sofa Source, Shoe Fair and Clothes Out Closet.

NEIMAN MARCUS
1618 Main Street
☎ 214-741-6911
www.neimanmarcus.com
Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm

The original Neiman Marcus still stands where it was first opened in 1907 by Herbert Marcus, Sr., his sister, Carrie Marcus Neiman, and her husband, A.L. Neiman. At the time, Dallas boasted 86,000 residents and was flush with cotton, banking and the whir of eight railroads running through town.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

Neiman Marcus' history includes many firsts. In 1927 it launched the first weekly retail fashion show in the nation. In 1937 it became the first retail apparel store outside New York to advertise in a national fashion magazine.

Neiman Marcus was not just a store; it was a center and brought Dallas into the thick of international fashion. Its early success is largely responsible for the area's growth in the fashion arena and it is to this day highly esteemed in its field.

There are two other Neiman Marcus stores in Dallas and one in Fort Worth, in addition to the original downtown location. You'll find them at the NorthPark Mall, Prestonwood Mall and at 2100 Green Oaks Road (Fort Worth).

Deep Ellum

Originally centered on Elm Street and nicknamed Deep Elm, the locals turned "Elm" into "Ellum

East of downtown, bounded by Central Expressway, I-30 and Parry at Fair Park
www.deepellumtx.com

Deep Ellum has historically provided an alternative to the mainstream crowd at the West End. It flourished during Prohibition, with jazz and blues performances.

The stores here are as eclectic as its music and history. Here are a few samples.

CASA MEXICANA
2616 Elm St., ☎ 214-747-7227, 877-4-amigos, www.casamexicanafolkart.com

Specializing in folk art and fine art from Mexico, each item up for sale is hand-selected by the owners or staff. They also carry a variety of Mexican cookbooks and children's books.

BIG BARK BAKERY
2538 Elm Street, 75226,
☎ 888-3BOW-WOW, ☎ 214-741-6173
www.bigbarkbakery.com

Their Howlin' Good biscuits seem to be the favorite, but there are also Pup-sicles and Dippity-Do-Dads at this eclectic shop featuring goodies just for dogs. All of the Big Bark's products are made with human-grade ingredients and without fillers or additives. The owners take their role as dog advocates a step further by keeping a foster dog with them in the store, which patrons are encouraged to adopt.

CENTURY MODERN
2928 Main St., ☎ 214-651-9200

Their vintage furniture and lighting selections date from the late 1940s to the early 1970s, with every-

thing from generic period items to rare pieces by Frank Lloyd Wright, Knoll, McCobb and many others. In 5,000 square feet, you'll find a little of everything.

DEEP ELLUM ART GLASS
2542 Elm St., ☎ 214-744-5900

Custom stained-glass windows, stained glass repair and restoration, classes, retail art glass and supplies.

Uptown

Uptown, just north of downtown and connected to the Arts district via trolley, has become a mixed-use wonderland perfect for visitors. Its red brick streets are lined with restaurants and stores. McKinney Avenue runs through the district; thus the trolley is the "McKinney trolley" and you'll often hear locals refer to it as the McKinney district. Here are but a few of the shopping choices.

THE HISTORY MERCHANT
2723 Routh St.
☎ 214-742-5487, www.historymerchant.com
Mon.-Sat., 10 am-4:30 pm; Sun., 12:30-4:30 pm

History is preserved in this home to rare, fine and historical books. The store itself is reminiscent of an 18th- century London bookshop, with antique lighting and plush couches to enjoy your finds. On the walls you'll find signed portraits of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. A search for books on Winston Churchill revealed over 100 choices, indicative of what you'll find at this book and history lovers' gem.

PACIFIC IMPORTS
2600 Fairmount Street
☎ 214-303-0733
Tues.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm

The owner is very proud of Pacific Imports' collection. Each piece is handcrafted by Indonesians and hand-picked by the owner on trips to Bali. They carry armoires, trunks, chests, and other furniture, as well as a wide range of accessories, including candlesticks and candelabras, wood carvings, masks, pottery, and other hand-crafted works.

R.L. RIDDELL RARE MAPS & PRINTS
2607 Routh Street
☎ 214-953-0601
Tues.-Fri., 10:30 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm

Its finds include 16th-19th-century antique maps, Texana pieces, globes, sporting prints and hand-gilded frames.

Adventure

DALLAS ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDEN
8525 Garland Rd, ☎ 214-327-8263,
www.dallasarboretum.org, Nov.-Feb. 10 am-5 pm,
March-Oct. 10 am-6 pm

Springtime is perfect for a stroll through the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, 66 acres tucked away just minutes from downtown. The **Jonsson Color Garden** boasts more than 2,000 varieties of azaleas. And, while spring and summer might be the most exciting times for the gardens, fall and winter are not far behind, with a steady line-up of flowers and foliage.

Also on the grounds is the historic **DeGolyer House**, a 21,000-square-foot Colonial mansion built in 1940 for oilman Everett DeGolyer. Footpaths meander throughout the rolling, manicured lawn and are accented with an Old English Garden.

BACHMAN LAKE
3500 Northwest Hwy
☎ 214-670-4100
Dallas Parks and Recreation

Within the city's boundaries are two small lakes perfect for joggers. Bachman Lake, one of them (the other is Rock Lake), is ringed by a trail that works for all types of wheels as well, whether they are bicycle, roller-skating or in-line skating. There are also areas for soccer, picnics and a playground. The concession area rents out roller skates and paddleboats.

The **Bachman Recreation Center** (2750 Bachman Dr., ☎ 214-670-6266), a 42,000-square-foot facility, offers programs and activities for people with disabilities age six and up. There's a gymnasium, pool, weight room and an arts and crafts center.

DALLAS NATURE CENTER
7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, 2½ miles south of I-20
☎ 972-296-1955
Tues.-Sun., sunrise to sundown

With 633 acres of preserved habitat just adjacent to Joe Pool Lake in south Dallas County, there is no shortage of views here. Many of the center's hilltops are the highest in the county, affording a great view of the lake and surrounding terrain.

Seven miles of trails round out facilities that include a butterfly garden, visitor center and picnic areas.

REUNION TOWER
300 Reunion Blvd
☎ 214-741-3663

You can view all of downtown from atop Reunion Tower, which anchors the western edge of the city's skyline and is the identifiable landmark in photos of downtown. A narrow shaft topped by a spinning restaurant, bar and observation deck, it affords a bird's-

eye view of Dallas and the Trinity River greenbelt. There's a fee for going on the observation deck and you pay a price if you choose to eat or drink here. But it's a one-of-a-kind view.

SKYLINE RANCH
1801 Wheatland
☎ 972-224-8055

With 90 acres of picket-fenced fun, there are hiking trails, fishing, horseback riding, carriage rides and green pastures here. The Dallas skyline view in the distance is spectacular. It's mostly used for group events, but individuals can come in and do some horseback riding and walking if they choose. Call ahead to see what facilities are available on a particular day.

WHITE ROCK LAKE
8300 Garland
www.whiterocklake.org
☎ 214-670-8281

White Rock Lake finds itself inundated with 5K-ers, 10K-ers and other runners most of the time. Its 12.5-mile loop is also attractive for biking and in-line skating. Boaters and people who like to fish come for the lake.

★ DID YOU KNOW?

In 1971, the first White Rock Marathon attracted 82 runners. Since then, "The Rock" has grown in prestige and participation. Today the December race attracts more than 4,000 runners from around the world.

H. L. Hunt, legendary Dallas oilman and eccentric, built his dream house, a replica of George Washington's Mount Vernon, on the west bank of White Rock

Right next to White Rock is the **Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden**, (see page 35) which boasts the largest public collection of azaleas in the nation.

The **Bath House Cultural Center** was reopened in the mid-1980s after 30 years of inactivity. The bath house was built in the 1930s after White Rock was no longer a water source for the city and had become a recreation hub. Today the bath house hosts plays, art exhibits and a variety of other cultural events.

With the Kids

THE DALLAS WORLD AQUARIUM & ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

1801 N. Griffin Street, 75202, www.dwazoo.com,
☎ 214-720-2224, Mon.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm

Everything at the growing Dallas World Aquarium induces ooohs and ahhhs. The aquarium portion of the adventure features 10 panoramic windows into 85,000 gallons of saltwater exhibits. Each of the exhibits is designed to take you to a different tropical locale: Palau, Southern Australia, Banggai Island, Lord Howe Island, Solomon Islands, Fiji, the Bahamas, the Red Sea, British Columbia and Tasmania. A 22,000-gallon walk-through aquarium puts visitors in the middle of reef life native to the Continental Shelf.

One of the Aquarium's most recent additions – though on a temporary basis – is a pair of manatees from Venezuela. The journey for one of the Antillean manatees began after it got tangled in the nets of a Venezuelan fishing vessel. After spending time in a local zoo's hippopotamus trough, it was moved to a 200,000-gallon aquarium here. Another manatee, similarly displaced, joined it in December 1999. Once the manatees are older and stronger they will be sent back to Venezuela, where a proper home is being built for

them. However, the transition will probably take several years.

They've filled the South American rainforest with rare and indigenous plants, monkeys and soft-billed toucans. In the jungle below are crocodiles, piranha and a black jaguar.

Daily feedings will give you a glimpse into real life for many of these animals. The feedings kick off each day at 11 am with the piranhas and the vampire bats. Then, at noon, you can watch the penguins being fed. A crowd favorite, the eel and shark feeding, happens each day at 1:30 pm. Saturdays are special, with noon feedings of an anaconda and the crocodiles.

When this privately owned venture began, it was more restaurant than aquarium wonderland. Today, through the expansion of the aquariums and the addition of the rainforest, eating is not the main attraction. But you can still get food. The **Eighteen-O-One Restaurant** is open from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm; the **Jungle Café** serves from 11 am to 4 pm.

DALLAS ZOO
650 South I-35 East
www.dallas-zoo.org,
☎ 214-670-5656
Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm (grounds close at 6 pm)

You'll see the Dallas Zoo well before you actually get there, courtesy of a giant giraffe that marks the zoo's entrance.

As the tallest statue in Texas, topping 67 feet, the giraffe can be seen from over a mile away and is a great landmark when you're on the freeway.

Founded in 1888, the zoo has seen major expansion and innovation in the last decade. Once considered average and given second billing to Fort Worth's Zoo, the Dallas Zoo now earns national accolades and awards. Its Wilds of Africa, which inhabits 25 acres of the park's 96 acres, was named the Best African ex-

hibit in the nation by *The Zoo Book: A Guide to America's Best*.

The zoo can be broken down into two main parts: the new Wilds of Africa, and Zoo North.

The **Wilds of Africa** includes all of the six habitats natural to Africa: forest, mountain, woodland, river, desert and bush. The zoo has done an extremely thorough job for its Africa campaign. Among its tenants are mandrill baboons, zebras, okapi, meerkats, snakebirds, saddle-billed storks, wattled cranes, klipspringer antelopes and over 20 varieties of colorful African birds that fly freely in the aviary. The **Chimpanzee Forest**, part of the African exhibit, includes eight chimps in the 19,000-square-foot home.

Gorilla Guides offer information in this award-winning exhibit.

Nine gorillas roam two acres of terrain created to mirror their natural habitat at the **Gorilla Conservation Research Center**. The grounds are lush, with over 5,000 edible plants, and are heated on cold days to simulate the gorillas' equatorial home. Viewing the gorillas is done from camouflaged viewing blinds and from behind bunkers.

The Wilds of Africa exhibit can be seen either on foot or from the Monorail Safari. The monorail ($1.50 each) provides up-close access to many of the exhibits during its 20-minute, one-mile narrated tour. The rail was designed specifically for the zoo; each seat faces out toward the exhibits, so there are no bad seats.

Zoo North, made up of the original sections, begins with a flock of vivid flamingos and includes giraffes, elephants, kangaroos, camels, tigers and lions. More than 500 reptiles and amphibians, representing 120 different species, are included in the **Bird and Reptile Building**. No zoo would be complete without a petting zoo, and Dallas' includes all the regulars: goats, chicks, ferrets, rabbits and tortoises.

After Dark

BLUE CAT BLUES
2612 Commerce Street, Deep Ellum
www.bluecatblues.com
☎ 214-744-CATS

Deep Ellum's relationship with the blues began long ago, when the neighborhood was settled as a cultural hodgepodge for all of those who didn't fit in elsewhere. Its rich musical tradition includes blues luminaries Blind Lemon Jefferson and Lightnin' Hopkins. The tradition still thrives in places like Blue Cat Blues, which specializes in hosting both established and aspiring blues talent.

Most nights they've got something going on at Blue Cat, but call ahead to find out who and how much.

CLUB DADA
2720 Elm St., Deep Ellum
www.clubdada.com, ☎ 214-744-3232

The music can be blues one night, rock the next and alternative grunge the next. One thing ties them together – quality. Club Dada has earned a reputation for bringing in quality acts and rising stars.

DALLAS ALLEY
2019 N. Lamar, in the West End Marketplace,
☎ 214-720-0170

One cover gives you access to a multitude of bars. Choices include oldies, dueling pianos, country and modern rock. During the week the cover is $3. On weekends it's $5.

GYPSY TEA ROOM
2548 Elm St., Deep Ellum
☎ 214-7GYPSY

They've taken over the home of a defunct microbrewery and made it a country music mecca.

But it's not just country. It's everything related, including folk and gospel.

POOR DAVID'S PUB
1924 Greenville Ave.
☎ 214-821-9891

It's been the Dallas home of folk/acoustic acts for more than a decade. Even though it's long and narrow, the sound quality is superb.

The hardwood dance floor makes that wonderful noise every old country dancehall should make.

SONS OF HERMANN HALL
3414 Elm St., Deep Ellum
☎ 214-747-4422

The walls will speak to you, with worn photos of country trailblazers like Hank Williams Sr. strewn around the room. The emphasis here is on Texans, and the musical form is most often country/folk.

TREES
2709 Elm St., Deep Ellum
☎ 214-748-5009

National acts usually appear at Trees, which boasts live music Tuesday through Saturday nights. It's also a top spot for local talent.

Calendar of Events

January

COTTON BOWL CLASSIC
Cotton Bowl Arena, Fair Park, ☎ 214-634-7525

New Year's Day in Dallas is always a football day, as this annual classic pits two of the nation's best teams against each other.

February

DALLAS WINTER BOAT SHOW
Dallas Market Hall, ☎ 972-550-1052, late January to early February

This annual event is closing in on half a century of service to Dallas boat lovers. Each year the event spreads out over the entire hall, with powerboats, sailboats and personal watercraft. The winter date means water lovers won't be missing much and can put in their boat orders for the spring and summer.

March

DALLAS HOME & GARDEN SHOW
Dallas Market Hall, ☎ 800-654-1480, one weekend in March

This is no ordinary home and garden show. More than 35,000 attendees peruse 450-plus exhibits. The hall is divided into two sections: home & garden and vacation & leisure. Exhibitors range from local nurseries to spa retailers to sellers of cookware and travel packages. How do all of these exhibitors vie for your attention? Great giveaways and prizes.

DALLAS VIDEO FESTIVAL
Dallas Theater Center, ☎ 214-999-8999, mid- to late March

Video pioneers are represented here at this annual video fest that has been drawing a crowd for over a decade.

April

DEEP ELLUM ART FESTIVAL

This is a wonderful way to browse local artwork and an area favorite.

Deep Ellum, ☎ 214-748-4332

Four stages serve up continuous music, while local restaurants serve up tasty morsels. The art combines contemporary with eclectic.

PRAIRIE DOG CHILI COOK OFF

Traders Village, Grand Prairie, ☎ 972-647-2331

Traders Village is the perfect home for this 25-year-old annual event. The Village offers lost of room for what has been deemed the "granddaddy of all North Texas area cook-offs."

SCARBOROUGH FAIR RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Waxahachie, ☎ 972-938-1888

Each Friday and Saturday night from April to June, all the area's fair maidens, court jesters, knights, kings and queens create a medieval village for the entire family to enjoy. There's jousting, Shakespearean plays and monstrous turkey legs to eat, along with fun and games for the kids.

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

The party coincides with the lovely blooms of spring.

Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Gardens,
☎ 214-327-4901, Easter weekend

The Easter season is the Gardens' most festive time of year. For three days, it hosts a variety of Easter festivities, the most popular of which is the gigantic Easter Egg Hunt.

USA FILM FESTIVAL

AMC Glen Lake Theater, ☎ 214-821-6300

Created in 1971, the Dallas Film Festival is now one of the oldest film festivals in the nation. Its eight days

are packed with feature films, shorts, special screenings and public discussions with directors and actors.

May

TASTE OF ADDISON
Addison Conference & Theater Centre,
☎ 800-ADDISON

Addison has earned the moniker "restaurant capital of Texas" for a reason. Each year, the city's dense population of chefs come together for a festival that includes food, music, carnival rides and wine tastings.

ARTFEST
Fair Park, ☎ 214-361-2011,
Memorial Day weekend

More than 800 national artists attend Artfest, the largest art show and outdoor festival of its kind in the Southwest. Close to 80,000 visitors come each year to take in the art, silent auction, kiddie rides, continuous music, food and crafts. Many also participate in the 5K and 10K run (for adults) and the Kiddie Kilometer.

June

HOOP-IT-UP BONANZA
West End Historic District
☎ 972-392-5750

It didn't take long for the novelty of Hoop-It-Up to make itself apparent to the rest of the world. What began in Dallas in 1986 as a fun 3-on-3 basketball tournament went national in 1989 and now spans the world, with international press coverage. More than 300,000 fans come to watch the original Hoop-It-Up in Dallas.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL OF DALLAS
Samuell-Grand Park
☎ 214-559-2778
www.shakespearedallas.org

An annual Shakespeare fest is not unusual for a large town – but Dallas does it right. A variety of plays run throughout June and July each summer, with over 100,000 Dallas residents and visitors enjoying the free run. This is the oldest free Shakespeare festival in the Southwest and the second-oldest in the country.

July

TASTE OF DALLAS
West End Historic District
☎ 214-741-7185 (West End Historic District),
www.dallaswestend.org, early to mid-July

The festivities are free, but visitors must purchase tickets to sample the food.

Dallas rolls out the red carpet for the Taste of Dallas, the city's largest festival of the year. More than 275,000 visitors roll through the West End from Friday to Sunday, sampling food from some of the best chefs in the city. There are also retail booths, live music and a children's area.

September

THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP INDIAN POW-WOW
Grand Prairie
☎ 972-647-2331

Tribes from around the nation are represented at this annual event, for a weekend of dance, arts and crafts and tribal council meetings.

MONTAGE
Arts District
☎ 214-361-2011, early to mid- September

Art comes in many forms during Montage: painting, photography, music, dance, sculpture and theater. All are represented over the weekend, which serves as a fundraiser for Dallas' performing arts.

Special children's programs run throughout the weekend, as well.

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS
Fair Park
☎ 214-565-9931, late September to mid-October

If you're in Dallas during the State Fair, you owe it to yourself to stop by. More than three million visitors do just that each year, making it the nation's largest state fair. What began in 1886 on 80 acres of rural land, today spreads itself out over 250 acres.

There is no chance that you'll be bored during the fair.

On a permanent basis, Fair Park includes a variety of museums: the African American Museum, the Age of Steam Railroad Museum, the Dallas Museum of Natural History, the Science Place and IMAX Theater, the Dallas Aquarium and the Dallas Horticulture Center.

There's a carnival midway, over 60 rides and a parade and fireworks each evening. There are also animal petting areas, nationally known musical guests, special performances, a national car show and an endless list of distractions.

November

GALLERIA HOLIDAY KICK-OFF
Dallas Galleria
☎ 972-702-7100

Holiday shoppers waiting for Thanksgiving to kick-off their Christmas-time spree do it in style at the Galleria. At noon on the Friday following Thanksgiving,

If you miss the festivities, the tree will remain through December.

the Galleria lights up the tallest indoor Christmas tree in the country, along with indoor fireworks and all the Christmas cheer that goes with it.

HOLIDAY AT THE ARBORETUM
Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden,
☎ 214-327-4901, after Thanksgiving

While the gardens get into this spirit with a festive display of holly and evergreen, the real treat here is a tour of the DeGolyer Mansion, decorated down to its last corner for the holiday season. The winter wonderland has been attracting visitors for years.

December

WHITE ROCK MARATHON
Beginning downtown and extending to White Rock Lake, ☎ 214-467-3369

Internationally competitive runners make a stop at the White Rock Marathon, putting it on the racing map. It's one of the few marathons that can get away with a December date.

NEIMAN MARCUS ADOLPHUS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARADE
1321 Commerce S, ☎ 214-742-8200

This holiday season parade, sponsored by the department store and the Adolphus, is a special children's celebration.

CANDLELIGHT AT OLD CITY PARK
1717 Gano Street, ☎ 214-421-5141

Decorated to look like a village of a century ago, this has been a favorite for years.

Sports

Dallas has quite a reputation with sports. The Dallas Cowboys, the most loved or loathed football team in

the world (depending on whom you ask), tops the list of local professional teams. But that list is very long and includes the popular Texas Rangers (baseball), Dallas Stars (hockey), Dallas Mavericks (basketball), Dallas Burn (soccer) and Dallas Sidekicks (soccer).

Other popular events include the Byron Nelson Classic, one of the most prestigious PGA golfing events, and Hoop-It-Up, the nation's largest three-on-three amateur basketball event in the world, which was born right here in Dallas.

DALLAS COWBOYS

☎ 972-785-5000

www.dallascowboys.com

The legendary Dallas Cowboys call Texas Stadium in Irving home and play to capacity crowds nearly every home game. The Cowboys have earned five world championships (1971, 1977, 1992, 1993, 1995), and need little introduction. Call ahead for ticket information.

Call the Pro Shop to confirm the tours are taking place on the day you plan to visit (☎ 972-785-4780).

Tours of the stadium are available daily beginning on the hour from 10 am to 3 pm, Mon.-Sat., and 11 am-3 pm on Sundays. The tour lasts around 45 minutes and is subject to cancellation due to game days and special events.

TEXAS RANGERS

www.texasrangers.com

☎ 817-273-5100

George W. Bush owned the Rangers for several years and still has a close relationship with the team.

The Texas Rangers play to excited crowds at Arlington Stadium. Though the Rangers haven't quite reached the pinnacle of baseball success, they've knocked on the door several times. Nolan Ryan pitched out his career with the Rangers.

The Ballpark at Arlington is considered one of the finer ones in America. They offer tours of the park and operate the Legends of the Game Museum, one of the

Among the museum exhibits is the famous "King of Swat" crown given to Babe Ruth in 1921 by his friends in New York.

best baseball history museums in the country. (See *Arlington* for complete information.)

Depending on what the Ballpark is hosting on a particular day, a tour could include seeing the press box, batting cages, owner's suite and the dugout. Discounted tickets are available if you choose to tour both the stadium and museum.

DALLAS MAVERICKS
☎ 972-988-DUNK
www.nba.com/mavericks

The Dallas Mavericks, an NBA franchise since 1980, have spent more than their share of time in the basketball cellar. But they still provide an exciting game. You can catch them at Reunion Arena in the heart of downtown Dallas.

DALLAS STARS
☎ 214-GO-STARS
www.dallasstars.com

The Dallas Stars shocked the world in 1999 by bringing home the Stanley Cup, the NHL's top prize. Not only was the winner from a non-Canadian town, it was from a town that only sees ice when its in the ice tea. Texans are excited about hockey and the exuberant crowds you'll encounter at Stars games reflect that.

The Stars also play their games at Reunion Arena in downtown Dallas.

DALLAS BURN
2602 McKinney Ave.
☎ 214-979-0303
www.burnsoccer.com

The Dallas Burn, a member of Major League Soccer (MLS), plays world-class soccer from March through September in the Cotton Bowl at Fair Park. Tickets

start at less than $10 and provide affordable family fun.

DALLAS SIDEKICKS
777 Sports Street
☎ 214-653-0200
www.sidekicks.com

Catch the Sidekicks games at Reunion

The Sidekicks provide indoor soccer entertainment from July to November. They are one of eight teams in the World Indoor Soccer League.

EDS SUPERDROME
9700 Wade Blvd.
At Collin County Community College, Frisco
☎ 972-731-1100
www.superdrome.com

VeloNews *ranked it the best velodrome in North America in 1999.*

The Superdrome, a velodrome, is one of the premier track cycling venues in the world.

Open year-round, it holds a variety of events, including world-class competitions and a weekly racing series. Teams from around the world use the Superdrome for training. The general public is welcome to use the facility for training and for corporate events and meetings.

WHIRLEYBALL
3641 W. Northwest Hwy.
☎ 214-350-0117

It's a one-of-a-kind sport for groups of people, combining hockey, basketball and bumper cars. Rent the court for around $150/hour.

Neighborhoods

WEST END HISTORICAL DISTRICT
bounded by the Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Commerce and Lamar

With one cover price you have access to country, rock, classic oldies, smoky alternative and dueling singalong piano music.

For entertainment there are several pockets of restaurants and bars that are notable. Downtown is host to the West End Historical District, over 20 blocks of restaurants, shops, bars and offices that is open to foot traffic only. Occupying the original site of Dallas as plotted by John Neely Bryan, the West End includes a three-tiered mall as its focal point. **Dallas Alley**, a $3 million enterprise, can fulfill your every nightclub dream.

GREENVILLE AVE.

Another entertainment option is Greenville Avenue, which began as a residential community of gingerbread cottages. As Greenville stretches miles, it has segmented itself into several key areas.

There are several online dining guides for the Metroplex. Try www.zagat.com, www.dallasdinesout.com, or www.restaurantrow.com/dallas.

Upper Greenville boasts a lively blend of high-end restaurants and nightlife. Lower Greenville is more for the casual outdoor dining and boutique-type shops. Lowest Greenville, the Bohemian section, boasts an array of multi-cultural restaurants, pubs and several antique shops.

HIGHLAND PARK

Highland Park was designed by landscape architect Wilbur David Cooke, who also planned Beverly Hills. You'll find the most ornate homes along Lakeside Drive.

Restaurants

Dallas is jam-packed with quality restaurants. We've highlighted many of the restaurants that are considered tradition or consistently hit the best of Dallas lists, but there are many, many more choices.

AL BIERNAT'S RESTAURANT
4217 Oak Lawn
☎ 214-219-2201

Al Biernat created the restaurant of his dreams, with salads that include heart of palm, avocado shrimp and crab, broiled lobster and tender steaks. Troy Aikman, Dallas Cowboys quarterback, likes Al's so much he had his wedding reception here. Warm chocolate cake is a favorite here.

CAFÉ IZMIR
3711 Greenville Ave
☎ 214-826-7788

At Café Izmir, you'll choose from several Mediterranean and Middle Eastern treats, served family-style. All you need to tell them is what you'd like to drink and whether you prefer meat or vegetarian. They've been racking up awards in Dallas as residents discover their food. Most days you'll start with fresh pita and hummus made with their secret recipe. What you get after that depends on what Mama, the cook and owner, found fresh that morning.

DEEP ELLUM CAFÉ
2706 Elm St.
☎ 214-741-9012

It's been a center of activity in Deep Ellum for years, with a menu that tends toward multi-ethnic items like Cajun chicken eggrolls and barbecue shrimp.

Try the grilled banana nut bread for dessert.

DREAM CAFÉ
2800 Routh, the Quadrangle
☎ 214-954-0486

Excellent for breakfast and lunch, Dream Café includes lots of fresh veggies with every dish. While the majority of Dream's offerings are healthy and organic, they still know how to put a zip in their dishes. They're open for dinner as well.

EATZI'S
3403 Oak Lawn Ave. (Lemmon Ave.),
☎ 214-526-1515

The concept of gourmet take-out has made EatZi's one of the most popular restaurants in Dallas (and Houston). Incredibly fresh ingredients attract diners as well as take-out patrons.

EMPIRE BAKING CO.
5450 W. Lovers Lane
☎ 214-350-0007

A Euro-style bakery, they serve up sandwiches, salads and desserts. Their signature breads are baked daily and deliciously.

EWALD'S AT THE STONELEIGH
2927 Maple at the Stoneleigh Hotel
☎ 214-871-2523

Classic European fare with rich French and continental-style sauces.

GENNIE'S BISHOP GRILL
321 N Bishop in Oak Cliff
☎ 214-946-1752
Mon.-Fri., 11 am-2 pm

Don't miss the chicken-fried steak.

Homemade pies follow real mashed potatoes and greens. It's an inexpensive downtown favorite, open for lunch only.

THE GRAPE
2808 Greenville Ave.
☎ 214-828-1981

Tiny and sparsely lit – perfect for romantic evenings.

It's not often that an institution specializing in alcohol can excel at food. But the Grape, Dallas' oldest wine bar, pulls off the feat with a daily blackboard menu that remains eclectic and interesting.

HOTEL ST. GERMAIN
2516 Maple
☎ 214-871-2516

Reservations are required and many of your meal choices are made before you arrive. Then, all you do is show up for an extravagant evening that includes your $75 fixed-price dinner.

KELLER'S
10554 Harry Hines
☎ 214-357-3572

Wrap a traditional burger lunch or dinner in fun by visiting one of Keller's three funky drive-ins. Great burgers. Other locations are 6537 E. NW Hwy (☎ 214-368-1209) and 3766 Samuell (☎ 214-381-0773).

LA VALENTINA DE MEXICO
14866 Montfort
☎ 972-726-0202

Strolling mariachi players fill this romantic restaurant with music.

La Valentina is rated one of the best Mexican restaurants in town. The "Nouvelle Aztec" cuisine includes several chicken moles, seafood and innovative fare like beef with corn truffles.

LAWRY'S THE PRIME RIB
14655 Dallas Parkway
☎ 972-503-6688

They stick with basic goodness: prime rib, mashed potatoes, salad and traditional veggies. Because they concentrate on a few signature items, each one of them is first class. There are other choices, including grilled salmon and broiled lobster tail.

MANSION ON TURTLE CREEK
2821 Turtle Creek
In the Mansion on Turtle Creek Hotel
☎ 214-526-2121

The Mansion has been cooking up stellar food for decades. It claims it is the birthplace of innovative Southwestern cuisine and not only tops Dallas' list of best restaurants, but the nation's. Current chef Dean Fearing counts his tortilla soup, lobster tacos and crème brûlée as signature offerings.

You can dine in the main dining room or choose from several small private rooms. There is a price for such grandeur: about $175 for a three-course meal for two, or $100 for Sunday brunch for two.

MOMO'S ITALIAN SPECIALTIES
9191 Forest Lane
☎ 972-234-6800
8300 Preston Center Plaza
☎ 214-987-2082

It's BYOB at the Forest Lane location.

The Gattinis, owners of Momo's, are first-generation Italian, who left their homeland just over a decade ago. Momo's, which derived its name from Pappa Gattini's native nickname, is as authentic and delicious as you'll find anywhere. Everything's big, relatively inexpensive and unforgettable.

MONICA'S ACA Y ALLA
2914 Main Street
☎ 214-748-7140
www.monicas.com

There's live music on Friday and Saturday nights.

Monica has taken Tex-Mex, thrown in healthier ingredients, added a few things from other cultures and produced a menu and a style that is uniquely her own. The menu includes items like Mexican lasagna, black bean pepper steak and chili-pumpkin ravioli. Located in Deep Ellum.

NANA GRILL
2201 Stemmons at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel,
☎ 214-761-7479

Nana's has lots of choices, from seafood to chicken to lamb, steak and veal. Good for both romance and business entertainment, the view of downtown Dallas is spectacular. Their holiday buffets and prix fixe menu items remain popular.

THE OLD WARSAW
2610 Maple
☎ 214-528-0032

You'll find the menu dotted with items like steak tartare and escargot. Violinists meander among tables, topping off the polished air of luxury. Expensive.

PIERRE'S BY THE LAKE
3430 Shore Crest Drive
☎ 214-358-2379

With an elegant steak and seafood menu, Pierre's is located in a classic home next to Bachman Lake. There's plenty of room, though, with banquet seating and a lakefront patio.

THE PRINCE OF HAMBURGERS
5200 Lemmon Ave.
☎ 214-526-9081

Classics endure the test of time. The Prince meets this standard, serving up delectable burgers, shakes, French fries and onion rings. They don't take shortcuts here. The buns are toasted, the garnish is fresh and the root beer is served in frosty mugs.

RAZZOO'S CAJUN CAFÉ
13949 N Central Expwy
☎ 972-235-3700
3712 Towne Crossing
☎ 972-686-9100

If you like hot and spicy, this is a perennial favorite.

Razzoo's blends Cajun creole with Texas. Louisiana-inspired appetizers include gumbo ("gumbaux" according to Razzoo's), boudin, fried gator tail, and the

popular "Rat-Toes," fried jalapenos stuffed with crab and shrimp. Entrées range from the lighter po' boy sandwiches to Texafied Cajun dishes (like Cajun fried steak) to pure Cajun. The Chicken Tchoupitoulas is a local favorite. Try out the Jaws Seafood Platter, an assortment including gator tails, fried shrimp, oysters, catfish tenders and crawdaddy tails. It serves four regular folks (or two Cajuns).

RIVIERA
7709 Inwood Rd
☎ 214-351-0094

They serve only dinner; reservations are recommended.

This romantic, intimate place will captivate you with Mediterranean and French dishes that have earned lots of stars.

SAMBUCA'S JAZZ CAFÉ
2618 Elm
☎ 214-744-0820
www.sambucajazzcafe.com

Dallas has had a love affair with Sambuca's since it opened its jazzy doors in 1991. Since then, it has set up shop in several other Southern cities and plans more expansion. Live jazz every night accents a Mediterranean menu focussing on fresh, seasonal ingredients with specialties from France, Greece, Italy and North Africa.

SNUFFER'S
www.snuffers.com
3526 Greenville Ave.
☎ 214-826-6850
14910 Midway Rd., Addison
☎ 972-991-8811

When the original Snuffer's opened over 20 years ago there was seating for 55 patrons. That same Greenville location – which has slowly engulfed more and more space – now seats 350 happy burger eaters.

The growth is a testament to the religious following this burger joint has created. Among its many accolades are best burgers in town, best fries and best margaritas. Try their cheddar fries, a Dallas institution.

SONNY BRYAN'S
2202 Inwood Rd.
☎ 214-357-7120
Lunch only, 7 days a week, multiple locations

Dallas discovered Sonny Bryan's long ago. You'll find locations all over town. But the Inwood location is where it all began 40 years ago. When a new barbecue joint opens up, a comparison with Sonny Bryan's is inevitable. It sets the bar in Dallas. You have your choice of seating: one-armed school desks, picnic tables or the hood of your car. Try the juicy ribs and tender brisket. It's always crowded, but they've got a patent on quick service. Other locations include: 302 North Market (☎ 214-744-1610), 325 North St. Paul in the pedestrian underground tunnel (☎ 214-979-0103), Galleria Mall (☎ 214-851-5131), 4701 Frankford (☎ 972-447-0102), and 4030 North MacArthur Blvd. (☎ 972-650-9564).

STAR CANYON
Cedar Springs at Oak Lawn (3102 Oak Lawn Ave.)
at The Centrum, ☎ 214-520-7827
www.starcanyon.com

Serving New Texas cuisine, they can also teach you how to cook. You can purchase some of their fare made from secret recipes, including a cowboy coffee blend, zesty salsas and chile olive oils. Chef Stephan Pyles has become famous in Dallas and around the country for his Southwestern cuisine and was the first Texan inducted into *Who's Who of Food and Wine in America*. Star Canyon offers an extensive wine selection,

but a sip of one of their original cactus berry margaritas is worth the investment.

STONELEIGH P
2926 Maple Ave
☎ 214-871-2346

Part of the exquisite hotel, the restaurant has been rolling along for over 20 years. Includes an incredible jukebox and patio seating.

TEI TEI ROBATA BAR
2906 N. Henderson
☎ 214-828-2400

You'll find a selection of sashimi, grilled fish and tempura at this popular Japanese restaurant. When stars are given out in reviews, Tei Tei earns lots of them. The food is always fresh and exquisite.

UNCLE JULIO'S
4125 Lemmon Ave, ☎ 214-520-6620
7557 Greenville Ave, ☎ 214-987-9900
16150 Dallas Parkway, ☎ 972-380-0100

Readers' polls in the local papers name Julio's as the number one Tex-Mex restaurant in the city. Their swirl margaritas may be one reason why.

Y.O. RANCH
702 Ross Ave
☎ 214-744-3287
www.dallassites.com/yoranch

From prairie fire nachos to a foot-long enchilada to top sirloin, the Y.O. offers a blend of Mexican, chuckwagon and prairie fare.

ZIZIKI'S
15707 Coit, ☎ 972-991-4433
4514 Travis, ☎ 214-521-2233

Spanakopita is as good here as it is fun to say. The lively bistro serves several other zesty German and Italian favorites, like shrimp souvlaki, hummus and gyros.

Accommodations

ADAM'S MARK
400 North Olive Drive, 75201
☎ 214-922-8000 or 800-444-ADAM
$125-$159

Linked via skywalk to the Plaza of the Americas Mall, the Adam's Mark is in the middle of the arts district. There are over 1,800 rooms available, with special amenities including 24-hour room service, valet service, a business center and a health club. There are three restaurants in the hotel, as well as indoor and outdoor pools and a gift shop. It boasts the largest hotel ballroom in Texas and is certainly one of the largest hotels in the state.

ADOLPHUS HOTEL
1321 Commerce St, 75202
☎ 800-221-9083, 214-742-8200
www.adolphus.com
$189-$229, suites for $500-$2,000

The hotel industry has applauded the Adolphus by giving it just about every industry award. *Condé Nast Traveler* calls it one of the top 10 hotels in the nation.

Built in 1912 by Adolphus Busch of Busch beer fame, it has everything you need.

All of its 432 rooms come with mini-bars, hairdryers, weight scales and plush robes. There are three restaurants on site, including the French Room, which garners stars in national restaurant surveys. It serves only dinner, Tues.-Sat., and reservations are required. It's located in the heart of downtown.

AMELIA'S PLACE
1775 Young Street, 75201
☎ 214-651-1775, 888-651-1775
$95-$115

The host, Amelia Core Jenkins, says she is a Louisiana feminist and has named her six guestrooms for women of all colors who have made profound contributions to Dallas. This "best cook in three parishes" makes a mean breakfast from scratch, which could include her signature buttermilk biscuits or items from her cookbook, *Stir Your Pots with Love.*

The DART Trolley Bus stops right out front.

In addition to breakfast, after 5 pm red wine and soft drinks are available. The B&B is in a renovated warehouse loft two blocks from the Dallas Convention Center.

ARISTOCRAT HOTEL
1933 Main Street, 75201
☎ 214-741-7700
www.hotel-dallas.com
$179-$199

Built in 1925 by Conrad Hilton, this hotel was the first to bear his name. It is now a Holiday Inn hotel. Today it is a nationally registered historic landmark located in the heart of downtown.

It is linked by a skywalk and tunnel system to much of the central business district. Geared toward the business traveler, each room includes an executive working desk with phone and dataport.

BED & BREAKFAST TEXAS STYLE
4224 W. Red Bird Lane, 75237
☎ 972-298-8586
Prices vary

This service offers a wide variety of accommodations all over town and nearby area lakes.

COURTYARD ON THE TRAIL BED & BREAKFAST
8045 Forest Trail, 75238
☎ 214-553-9700
$110-$155

Great for both business travelers (it is equipped with a fax machine) and couples.

A morning jog is easy; just open your French doors and hit the trail around White Rock Lake. The same doors also lead to the pool and courtyard.

DALLAS GRAND HOTEL
1914 Commerce St., 75201
☎ 214-747-7000
$79-$139, luxury suites $150-$450

A full city block, grand describes this hotel's size. Located in the business district for easy access, the Dallas Grand features a restaurant, fitness center, gift shop and valet parking. Self-parking is available at a garage across the street. They began a renovation project in the summer of 2000. There are 12 luxury suites available.

HOTEL ST. GERMAIN
2516 Maple Ave.
☎ 214-871-2516
$290-$650

This boutique hotel offers seven luxury suites, two parlors, two dining rooms and a New Orleans-style courtyard. All suites are decorated with turn-of-the-century French antiques and feature elaborately canopied beds, fireplaces and cable television. Additionally, the conveniences of a 24-hour concierge, a butler, room service, valet parking and business services are available.

Built in 1909 as one of the first residences on Maple Avenue by prominent businessman John Patrick Murphy, this fashionable home was occupied by three generations of his family until the 1950s. Claire

Heymann purchased the Victorian house in 1990 and began extensive renovations to create the splendid Hôtel St. Germain.

The restaurant offers prix fixe ($75) five-course gourmet dinners Tuesday through Saturday, with reservations.

HYATT REGENCY
300 Reunion Blvd W., 75207
☎ 800-233-1234, 214-651-1234
http://dallas.hyatt.com/dfwrd
$99-$290, suites for $750-$1,150

In early 2000, the hotel completed a $65 million upgrade.

Connected to Reunion Tower (and its acclaimed Antares restaurant, which spins), the Hyatt's downtown location is also steps from the West End entertainment district, at the foot of Reunion arena and close to the Dallas Convention Center.

The hotel now has three restaurants, a coffee shop, an outdoor pool and a fitness center. The Regency Club, a restricted concierge floor, features free cocktails and appetizers in its lounge.

THE MAGNOLIA HOTEL
1401 Commerce Street, 75201
☎ 214-915-6500, 888-915-1110
www.themagnoliahotel.com
$139, suites for $199-$299

Suites have a separate kitchen area and large sitting area.

The blazing red Pegasus atop the Magnolia building has been a beacon in Dallas since the 1930s. It was placed on top of Dallas' first skyscraper in 1934 as an advertisement for an oil convention. At the time, the building was home to Magnolia Oil Co., which is now a part of Mobil Oil Co.

The building became engulfed by a newer, larger downtown and its prominence faded until a recent renovation. Everything has been updated, while preserving the building's original splendor.

MANSION ON TURTLE CREEK
2821 Turtle Creek Drive, 75219,
☎ 214-559-2100
www.mansiononturtlecreek.com
Guest rooms $325-$530, suites $665-$2,400

Housed in the one-time home of a cotton magnate, the Mansion is one of Dallas' – and the nation's – finest luxury hotels. Its nine stories include 126 guest rooms and 15 suites. Adjacent to the hotel tower are the restaurant, bar, and private dining rooms in the restored Sheppard King Mansion.

Both the restaurant and the hotel have earned top marks in the nation, consistently being ranked as a five-star, five-diamond facility. Whatever you can imagine, you'll find here, from plush, white terry robes to 24-hour room service. There's also a fully equipped business center, a fitness center, salon, outdoor heated pool and much more.

LE MERIDIEN
650 N. Pearl, 75201,
☎ 800-543-4300, 214-979-9000
$129-$310

Parking is sometimes difficult in this area of town and you often pay a steep price.

Anchoring the Plaza of Americas complex in the middle of the arts district, Le Meridien boasts an award-winning restaurant and indoor ice skating rink.

THE SOUTHERN HOUSE B&B
2625 Thomas Ave., 75204
☎ 214-720-0845
www.southernhouse.com
$100

Rooms come with breakfast and afternoon tea or an apéritif.

Located two blocks off of McKinney Avenue and within walking distance of the Dallas Museum of Art, the Southern House is convenient to everything in the McKinney Ave. District ("Uptown"). Its exterior is not quite antique, but you'll find eclectic pieces through-

out the house, such as an antique door salvaged from the Texas Capitol in Austin.

THE WYNDHAM ANATOLE
2201 N. Stemmons Frwy, 75207
☎ 800-WYNDHAM, 214-748-1200
$130-$180 during the week, $100-$140 weekends

The grand hotel boasts over 1,200 units, making it the largest in the Southwest. With seven restaurants, three pools and 3,000 parking spaces, you're sure to find what you need. Only two miles from downtown, it is one of the largest convention hotels in the nation. In fact, the main exhibit area measures approximately 73,000 square feet, enough room to play a game of professional football.

Its most elegant restaurant, **Nana's Bar & Grill**, is one of only three five-star restaurants in Dallas. There's a jazz band every Thursday through Saturday night.

The $12 million health club includes two pools, though if you're staying in a standard room, rather than a suite or concierge level room, you'll have to pay a small additional charge to use it. Outside, you'll find trails to walk on and one of the world's only certified croquet fields.

If you're staying here, earmark an hour or so just to tour the facility.

Owned by Trammell Crow, the Wyndham Anatole houses a multi-million-dollar collection of artwork, including a Monet lithograph and two 12-foot slabs of the Berlin Wall.

STONELEIGH HOTEL
2927 Maple Ave, 75201
☎ 800-255-9299, 214-871-7111
$99-$159 basic, $200-$350 suites

Some of the rooms have kitchens included.

When Hollywood comes to town, Stoneleigh pampers them. In fact, they call their fourth floor the "celebrity floor." They spent over $2 million renovating the floor

in 1999, adding every convenience possible. There are two dining choices here: **Seville**, a Spanish restaurant, and a **sushi bar**.

TERRA COTTA INN
6101 LBJ Freeway, 75240
☎ 800-553-3591 (reservations), 972-387-2525
$59-$79 single, San Miguel Suite $130

The owners, who bought this hacienda tucked in between a number of high-rises and glass towers, have slowly been renovating their 97-room inn to look like Old Mexico. Their small touches include tiled mirrors, wrought iron furniture, carved fixtures and ceramic candlestick holders.

The hotel is directly across from Valley View Mall at the northeast corner of the LBJ Freeway and Preston Road. Rooms come with a full complimentary continental breakfast and morning newspaper.

For the price, it's a steal.

Fort Worth

Fort Worth is the maligned stepsister of Big D. Joined at the hip with one of fastest growing areas in the nation, it is part of what has been termed the "Metroplex," a grand moniker that encompasses Fort Worth, Dallas and the dozens of smaller communities that surround the two cities. A sign is all that will tell you when you've left one town and entered another. Fort Worth, with all the mad growth of the Metroplex, somehow got thrown out of the limelight and earned the reputation of a country bumpkin.

But Fort Worth is a cultural jewel that has preserved a slower pace and a family atmosphere. Downtown Fort Worth has been resurrected and its art district is deemed one of the finest in the nation. Not bad for a cow town.

History

The man for whom the city is named, William Jenkins Worth, doesn't rank high with historians. He fought in the War of 1812 and the Florida Seminole Indian War and died of cholera in 1849, the same year that Camp Worth was established. Fort Worth (having moved from camp to fort status) was later abandoned by the army, but by then settlers had come to join the post.

Area residents took over the empty buildings and barracks. A stable became the town's first hotel. The Civil War brought economic hardship but cattle carried prosperity to the humble city, though not without a little competition.

The **Chisholm Trail** ran east of town between Dallas and Fort Worth; the Western Trail passed to the west between Fort Worth and Fort Griffin. Fort Worth became a supply hub, representing the last chance for cattle drivers to provision before heading north.

The trail's time ended with the invention of barbed wire and the efficiency of shipping by rail. Again, Fort Worth took advantage of its location and became a shipping hub for beef processing. The Fort Worth Stockyards rose overnight to become the fifth largest such center in the nation.

Between 1902 and 1912 over 16 million head of cattle passed through the stockyards here.

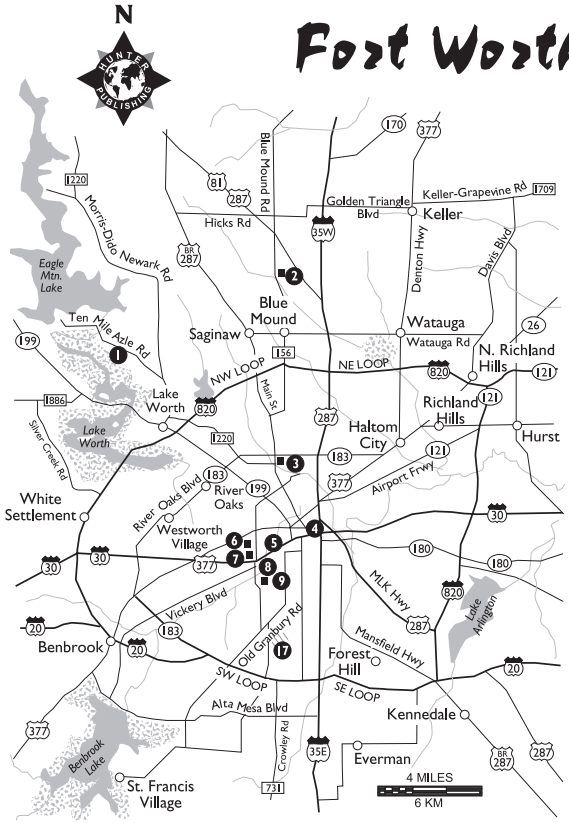
The population of Fort Worth reflected the change, growing from 27,000 in 1900 to 73,000 in 1910 and 105,000 in 1920.

Famous Faces in Fort Worth

With such a heavy investment in cattle and cowboys, it comes as no surprise that Fort Worth was a rowdy place, subject to colorful gunfights and eccentric characters. **Butch Cassidy** (George Leroy Parker) and his Wild Bunch tried to lay low in Fort Worth for awhile but had to make a quick exit after police recognized a picture of the group that was proudly displayed in a photographer's window.

Chief Quanah Parker regularly stopped in Fort Worth on business, staying at the Pickwick Hotel, a first-class affair. The Stockyards eventually faltered as the cattle business moved further west.

Fort Worth turned to oil (which was found nearby), the defense industry and aviation. Today both General Dynamics and Bell Helicopter design and build airplanes here.



1. Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
2. US Bureau of Engraving & Printing
3. Stockyards / Visitor Center
4. Convention & Visitor Bureau
5. Trinity Park
6. Will Rogers Memorial Center
7. Botanic Gardens
8. Forest Park
9. Fort Worth Zoo
10. Dutch Branch Park

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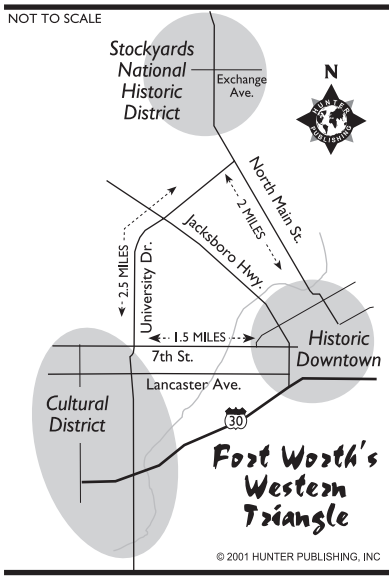


People move mountains for tickets for Cliburn's recitals.

The town's cultural appetite is unparalleled for its size of just under 500,000 residents. Among the town's favorite artists is **Van Cliburn**, the legendary pianist who won the first Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, along with the hearts of millions, at the age of 23. The Annual Van Cliburn International Piano Competition began at Fort Worth in 1962. Cliburn moved to Fort Worth in 1986, reviving his career the next year.

One of Fort Worth's finest modern accomplishments has been the complete revitalization of its downtown. Sundance Square (between Calhoun and Throckmorton from 2nd to 5th) is named for the Sundance Kid who, along with partner Butch Cassidy, used to hide out nearby. It is 14 blocks worth of shopping, live theater, museums, dining and nightspots.

Visitor Information

You can pick up information on the downtown district – and all of Fort Worth – at the **Visitor's Center** (415 Throckmorton Street, ☎ 800-433-5747, 817-336-8791;

Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5 pm; Sat., 10 am-4 pm). They have brochures for places of interest all over North Texas. In addition, employees can provide good advice on when and where to go during your visit.

Things to Do

Historic Sites

Fort Worth Stockyards

Fort Worth Stockyards National Historical District
130 East Exchange Ave.
☎ 817-624-4741
www.fortworthstockyards.org

Fort Worth is certainly an odd combination of cow town and culture – a pristine jewel that refuses to shed its country background. For a taste of the country, head toward the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District, a 125-acre hodgepodge of dining, shopping, entertainment and night life. Following are some of the pieces that make up the district, but you must think of them as a whole and experience them firsthand to find out what the stockyards are all about.

Every day at 11:30 am and 4 pm, you'll find yourself in the middle of a cattle drive, as cowboys round up the herd along East Exchange, the main byway in the Stockyards.

STOCKYARD VISITOR CENTER
130 E. Exchange
☎ 817-625-9715

A good first stop is the stockyard's visitors center. They can fill you in on all the details and herd you in

the right direction. They offer a guided tour of the district that lasts about 1½ hours and slowly moseys around the central buildings. It's more tour than walk, so don't be deterred by the length of time. They'll tell you about all the colorful characters that have passed through the Stockyards and discuss their history. Mon.-Sat., the tours begin at 10 am and occur every two hours. On Sundays they begin at noon. Adults pay $6 for the tour.

Call ahead for reservations.

BILLY BOB'S TEXAS
2520 Rodeo Plaza
☎ 817-624-7117
www.billybobstexas.com
Mon.-Sat., 11 am-2 pm, Sun., noon-2 am

The centerpiece of the stockyards is Billy Bob's Texas, the world's largest honky-tonk. The building was constructed in 1910 as an open-air barn for livestock during the Fort Worth Stock Show. Over the years it went through many changes. In the 1950s it was a department store (the annual Livestock Show had moved from the grounds by then).

The sloping floor, perfect today for concert seating, was originally constructed to allow runoff from the cattle pens.

Billy Bob's opened its doors in 1981, with room for more than 6,000 visitors, 40 different bar stations and a pro bull riding arena that was fashioned from the original auction ring.

While Billy Bob's is a bar at heart, boasting some of the finest country entertainment, you don't have to be country or a drinker to enjoy the huge center. There's professional bull riding every Friday and Saturday night, an arcade, a number of dance floors, a restaurant and an impressive Walk of Fame.

THE STOCKYARDS MUSEUM
Livestock Exchange Building
☎ 817-625-5087
Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, closed Sundays, free

The Stockyards Museum does its best to preserve both what the Stockyards meant for its community and what the Wild West meant for the world. Exhibits include everything from household items to photographs of Stockyard personnel from the 1930s. A Native American exhibit focuses on Quanah Parker, a Fort Worth regular.

STOCKYARD AMUSEMENT PARK

March through October, the kids (and young-at-heart adults) will get a kick out of the Stockyard Amusement Park, the only Western theme amusement park of its kind that includes a 1932 carousel and a champion bronc and bull ride.

COWTOWN COLISEUM

121 E. Exchange Ave
☎ 817-625-1025
www.cowtowncolisuem.com

The Cowtown Coliseum, built in 1907, hosted the world's first indoor rodeo in 1918.

Today there's a rodeo every Friday and Saturday night beginning at 8 pm. Regular features include bull riding, barrel racing, calf roping and steer wrestling. During festivals and special events, the regular rodeo might be preempted. But you can always count on some kind of activity on Fridays and Saturdays.

STOCKYARD ARENA AND STABLES

On the south side of E. Exchange Ave., next to the livery, ☎ 817-624-3446

Call ahead for reservations – you'll want to confirm that there are enough horses available for your needs.

Guides will take visitors by horseback as far as they want to go along the Trinity River – the only limitation is their budget. The stables offers about a dozen horses for riding along the Trinity River. There are also arena rides for children, where guides can lead the horse if needed. Rides currently cost $25 an hour. For small children in the arena, they will break down the cost for a 15- or 30-minute ride.

On Friday nights at 8 pm and Saturday at 2 pm, the arena hosts team roping competitions that are open to the public for free. Stop by and take a gander. If you're lucky, you'll catch a Sunday when the youth rodeo takes over the arena. There can be up to 400 children from ages five to 14 chasing calves and testing out their roping skills.

Historic Sites in Other Areas

WHITE ELEPHANT SALOON
106 E. Exchange Ave, ☎ 817-624-1887

If you're interested in whetting a thirsty whistle, the White Elephant Saloon can please any palate. It has been around for over 100 years and was once a haven for gamblers and gunfighters.

Esquire magazine included the White Elephant in its list of top 100 US bars.

TARANTULA TRAIN
☎ 817-625-9035

A bird's-eye view of the area comes with a ride on the *Tarantula*, an 1896 steam train that tours the historic district. The Tarantula begins each day in Grapevine, steaming over to the Stockyards mid-morning and returning in the afternoon. From the Stockyards you can either catch a one-way ride to Grapevine, or you can climb aboard for a one-hour tour that takes visitors down to 8th Avenue and back.

Visit their web site, www.tarantulatrain.com, or read the Grapevine entry, page 160, for complete information.

Wednesday through Saturday, the 8th Avenue trip begins at noon. On Sundays, it's pushed back to 3 pm.

EDDLEMAN-MCFARLAND HOUSE
1110 Penn Street
☎ 817-332-5875
Mon.-Fri., 10 am-1 pm

Generations of Fort Worth aristocrats lived in this Victorian country estate built in 1899. Although it is no longer a country home, it has been preserved with exquisite detail. From the patterned parquet floors to the coffered ceilings, time has been gentle to this home. Tours are offered on the hour.

The house can be reserved for weddings or other special events.

THISTLE HILL
1509 Pennsylvania Ave
☎ 817-336-1212
Mon.-Fri., 11 am-2 pm, Sun., 1-3 pm

Electra Waggoner made shopping history as the first customer to spend $20,000 in one day at Neiman Marcus.

Until the 1980s, Thistle Hill sat in a sad state of entropy. But Fort Worth preservations have restored this 1904 Georgian revival mansion, built by oil baron W.T. Waggoner for his daughter Electra as a wedding present.

Only the finest was allowed and the present-day restoration adheres to the house's grand past. With a horseshoe-shaped staircase and opulent Tiffany-style windows, there are 18 rooms to wander through. Guided tours begin on the hour. Call ahead to confirm there is room on the tour, as they do sell out.

SILVER SLIPPER ROW
Elizabeth Boulevard Historical District
Elizabeth Blvd. Between 8th and College Ave., west of I-35

Mansions were the norm for wealthy oilmen and cattle barons between 1910 and 1930. The money they poured into their homes earned the neighborhood the moniker "Silver Slipper Row." The Depression ended the era's opulent outgrowth, but many of the houses remain in the neighborhood bisected by Elizabeth Blvd. Although all of the houses are private homes, there are historic plaques on many of them.

Museums & Galleries

The Cultural District, five minutes west of downtown Fort Worth and Sundance Square, is saturated with museums and galleries. For current exhibit information on all of them, visit www.fwculture.com.

AMERICAN AIRLINES C.R. SMITH MUSEUM
4601 Hwy. 360, ☎ 817-967-1560, closed Mondays, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm, Sun., noon-5 pm

Located next door to the American Airlines Flight Academy, the museum invites visitors to play along with interactive exhibits, dioramas and a large screen theater. The museum depicts the history of American Airlines, which largely parallels the history of commercial aviation.

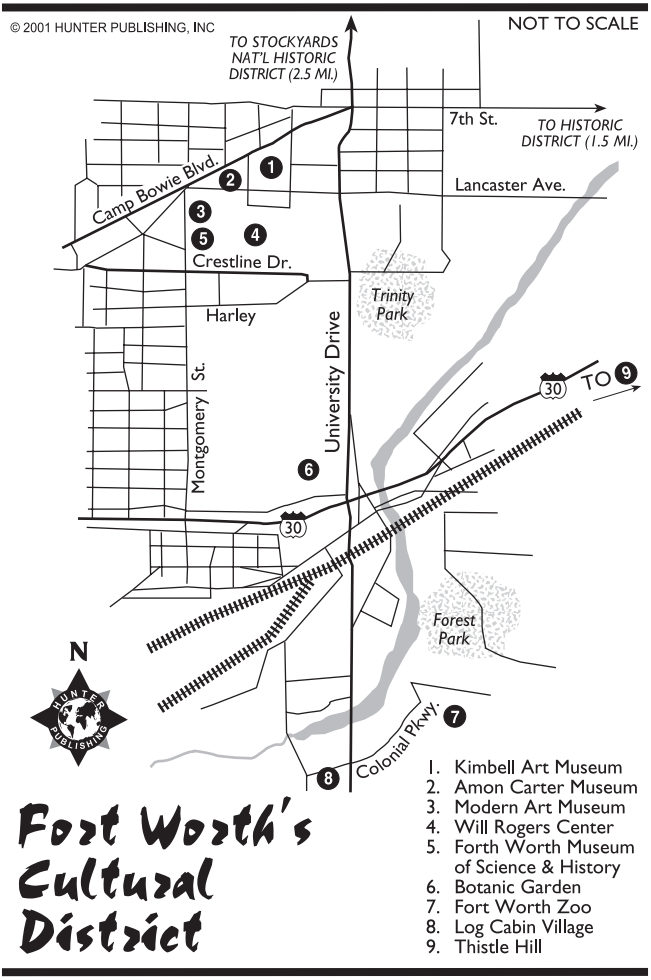
A restored DC-3 is on display.

AMON CARTER MUSEUM
3501 Camp Bowie Blvd, ☎ 817-738-1933 (under renovation until fall 2001)
500 Commerce St., ☎ 817-738-1933 (temporary location during renovations)
www.cartermuseum.org

Amon Carter, a onetime oilman and publisher of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, arguably has had his most lasting influence on Fort Worth through the Amon Carter Museum. It was originally endowed to showcase his collection of works by Frederic Remington and Charles Russell. Today it boasts pieces by Georgia O'Keefe, Winslow Homer, James McNeill Whistler and Mary Cassatt. Since the opening in 1961, its collection has grown from 400 pieces to over 300,000. To make room, museum leaders decided to completely rebuild the museum, tripling its gallery space. They've set up a temporary home for a portion of the collection across from Bass Performance Hall.

The museum's photography collection didn't begin to form until 1961. Today it houses over 250,000 photographic objects, including 90,000 prints. The works begin in the 19th century and include items like Alexander Gardner's sketchbook of the Civil War. The collection extend to 20th-century photographers, including Ansel Adams, Carlotta Corpron, Roy DeCarava, Robert Frank, Laura Gilpin, Lewis Wickes Hine, Barbara Morgan, Charles Sheeler, Alfred Stieglitz, Paul Strand, Willard Van Dyke, Edward Weston and Minor White.

The Carter Downtown is open Tues. and Wed., 10:30 am-5 pm, Thurs.-Sat., 10:30 am-8 pm and Sun., noon-5 pm



Fort Worth's Cultural District

BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS (BRIT)

509 Pecan Street, ☎ 817-332-4441, www.brit.org,
Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm

The largest independent herbarium in the Southwest, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas houses close to a million dried plant specimens. Opened to the public in 1991, BRIT is primarily used for research.

BRIT was originally incorporated in 1987 to house Southern Methodist University's Herbarium and botanical library. The plant collections represent the lifetime work of Lloyd Shinners, one of the most influential Texas botanists of the 20th century. The core of the library (70,000+ volumes) is made up of the personal collections of Lloyd Shinners and Eula Whitehouse and is rich in literature on botany and horticulture from the 19th century and the latter half of the 18th century.

In 1997, Vanderbilt University donated its herbarium of over 360,000 specimens to the institute.

KIMBELL ART MUSEUM

3333 Camp Bowie Blvd, ☎ 817-332-8451,
www.kimbellart.org
Tues.-Thurs., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., noon-8 pm, Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Sun., noon-5 pm, closed Mondays

The Kimbell has been deemed America's best small museum and features art by world-renowned artists like Rembrandt, Gauguin, Cezanne, Picasso and Matisse. With holdings from antiquity to the 20th century, it is one of the only museums in the Southwest with a substantial collection of Asian arts. There is also a smaller collection of Mesoamerican, African and Mediterranean antiquities. Kimbell was another area patron who made his fortune in oil and grain. When he died in 1964, he bequeathed his entire art

collection and his personal fortune to establish and maintain a public art museum foundation. The building itself is a work of art, using natural light and aesthetic space to embrace its collection. For Louis Kahn, the designer, it was the last building he personally oversaw to completion.

Currently, tours of the permanent collection are being offered on Wednesdays at 2 pm and Sundays at 3 pm. Visitors should meet the docent at the entrance to the south galleries. There is no charge for the public tour. Also, if you're planning to go on Sunday, join them for their Sunday Brunch, a Fort Worth tradition, served from noon to 2 pm.

THE MODERN ART MUSEUM
1309 Montgomery St, ☎ 817-738-9215,
www.mamfw.org
Tues.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun.,
noon-5 pm

The Modern Art Museum was actually the first museum in Texas, created in 1892 by a group of women who wanted to bring a little culture to their town. It has moved around (and changed names) a few times, but is currently located in the arts district, with works by Picasso, Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko. A new facility, designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando, is scheduled to open in the Cultural District in 2002. It is closed on Mondays and holidays.

THE MODERN AT SUNDANCE SQUARE
410 Houston St.,
☎ 817-335-9215, www.mamfw.org
Mon.-Thurs., 11 am-6 pm, Fri.-Sat., 11 am-10 pm,
Sun., 1-5 pm

Located downtown, the Modern at Sundance Square is an extension of the Fort Worth Modern Art Museum. The expanded gift shop includes a variety of

gifts, crafts, handmade jewelry, toys, stationery and books.

FORT WORTH MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & HISTORY

1501 Montgomery St, www.fwmuseum.org, ☎ 817-255-9300, Mon. 9 am-5 pm, Tues.-Thurs., 9 am-8 pm, Fri., & Sat., 9 am-9 pm and Sun., noon-8 pm

It's fitting that Fort Worth's science museum began as an experiment. In 1939, the local council of Administrative Women in Education began a study of children's museums, with the idea of creating one in Fort Worth. In 1941 they received a charter for the museum and have grown their creation ever since. Over a million visitors come through the museum's doors each year, making it the Southwest's most popular science and history museum.

Hands-on exhibits include the popular **Dino Dig**, where kids can become paleontologists for the day and take home their fossil finds, and ExploraZone, where kids can investigate color, science, energy, light, music, art and shadows.

An 80-foot **Omni Theater**, the first in Texas, has wowed over eight million visitors since it opened in 1983. Shows rotate periodically, so call ahead for current offerings.

The **Noble Planetarium**, dedicated to Miss Charlie Mary Noble, was the first planetarium in the world named after a woman. Housed in a 30-foot dome with room for 80 visitors, the planetarium's star projector re-creates a visual journey through space.

There's much more at the Science Center for both adults and children, most of it interactive and stimulating for the aspiring scientist.

NATIONAL COWGIRL MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME

111 W. 4th St., www.cowgirl.net, ☎ 817-336-4475

The National Cowgirl Museum started in 1975 in the Texas panhandle town of Hereford. It is the only museum of its kind in the world, dedicated to honoring and documenting the lives of women who distinguished themselves and pioneered the American West.

The founders decided to move the museum to Fort Worth in 1994 and have set up a semi-permanent camp on 4th Street in Sundance Square while they design and complete their own unique museum, which is scheduled to open in 2002 in the Cultural District.

Its honorees include sharp-shooter Annie Oakley, Henrietta Chamberlain King, co-founder of the King Ranch, and Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the *Little House on the Prairie* series.

They rotate a sample of their exhibits in their temporary space, which includes a unique gift shop.

THE SID RICHARDSON COLLECTION OF WESTERN ART

309 Main St, Sundance Square,
www.sidrmuseum.org, ☎ 817-332-6554,
Tues.-Wed., 10 am-5 pm, Thurs.-Fri., 10 am-8 pm,
Sat., 11 am-8 pm, Sun., 1 pm-5 pm

The Sid Richardson Collection of Western Art is little known, but includes a great collection of works by Frederic Remington and Charles Russell, two of the most renowned artists of the American West. Oilman Sid Richardson, who had a friendly art-collecting rivalry going with Amon Carter, purchased most of the pieces. Fort Worth residents culturally prospered when the two wealthy oil barons' battle turned into philanthropy.

The collection includes more than 100 pieces. Roughly 70 of the works are on display at the museum. The museum also includes two ornate saddles, both gifts from Amon Carter to his friend Sid Richardson. They were created by Edward Bohlin, a master saddle craftsman, whose clients included Roy Rogers, Gene Autrey, John Wayne and Tex Ritter.

THE CATTLE RAISERS MUSEUM
1301 W. Seventh, ☎ 817-332-7064,
Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm

The Cattle Raisers Museum, a cross between high-brow and cowboy, provides the legends and lore surrounding the Texas range. Photographs of legendary cowboys like Charles Goodnight and Richard King are just part of the history of ranching and cattle in Texas. A collection of famous cattle brands, including some that belonged to Lyndon Johnson and John Wayne, are on display, along with interactive exhibits and films.

A new museum in the Cultural District is in the works for the Cattle Raisers Museum and should be open in 2003.

FIRE STATION NO. 1
Second and Commerce

Sitting demurely next to a downtown glass skyscraper (it's a skyscraper by Fort Worth standards) is Fire Station No. 1, which offers 150 years of Fort Worth history. Displays in the 1873 fire-station-turned-city-hall, trace the path from frontier outpost to cattle hub to aerospace center.

Shopping

Downtown

FORT WORTH OUTLET SQUARE
100 Throckmorton, Tandy Center,
☎ 817-415-3720, www.fwoutletsquare.com

Its tenants include nationally known retailers like Speigel's, Nine West, RadioShack, Bugle Boy and the Perfumania. Your kids will love the shopping if they get to use the ice skating rink downstairs. Open to the public every day of the week, the rink offers skating lessons for all ages.

Parking spaces are often hard to come by in downtown Fort Worth, so the outlet center has come up with its own solution. They've connected a huge parking lot on the south bank of the Trinity River near the Henderson St. bridge with the center via a charming subway. The subway takes you straight into the mall. It's also an easy springboard into the downtown area.

THOMAS KINKADE FAMILY GALLERIES
302 Main Street, ☎ 888-242-0650

Thomas Kinkade's lush, fairy-like landscapes are among the most collected in the country. His luminous use of light has earned him the moniker "Painter of Light." Over 100 rare, limited edition prints, original sketches and studio works are available at the gallery, owned by the artist's brother, Patrick Kinkade. Additional locations are in the Parks Mall (Arlington, ☎ 817-419-9535), Vista Ridge Mall (Lewisville, ☎ 888-997-6299), and Hulen Mall (Fort Worth, ☎ 817-292-3166).

PIER 1 IMPORTS
501 Houston St., ☎ 817-877-0479

You've seen this trendy import store across the country, but did you know its empire started in Fort Worth? Their wares range from Malaysian to Moroccan, from wine glasses to furniture.

The original Pier 1, which was at I-30 and Forest Park Blvd., closed over a decade ago.

PETERS BROS. HATS
909 Houston St., ☎ 817-335-1715,
Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm

When Tom and Jim Peters started their hat business in 1911, neither of them knew how to make hats. So for 10 years they repaired them. In 1921, after Tom worked briefly for Stetson, the brothers turned their store into a full-service hat business. Today, grandson Joe Peters keeps shop.

Stockyards District

ERNEST TUBB RECORD SHOP
140 E. Exchange, ☎ 817-624-8449, http://etrs.net

Ernest Tubb, a country music crooner born near Crisp, Texas in 1914, joined the Grand Old Opry in 1943. His radio program, *Midnight Jamboree*, helped launch the careers of the Everly Brothers and Elvis Presley. His store in Fort Worth (there are now six nationally) opened in 1947 and has been specializing in country music ever since. Hard-to-find country recordings are easy to find at the shrine to Tubb.

LONE STAR WINES
140 E. Exchange Ave., ☎ 817-626-1601

Wine and Texas aren't often part of the same train of thought. But for the owners of Lone Star Wines, they

are integral to each other. You'll find all of Texas' vintages here, from Messina Hof in College Station to the Panhandle's Cap Rock.

M.L. LEDDY'S
2455 North Main St., ☎ 817-624-3149
Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm, closed Sundays

Real cowboys still shop here. Handmade boots, hats and saddles accent their selection of Western wear.

MAVERICK WESTERN WEAR
100 E. Exchange Ave., ☎ 817-626-1129,
Mon.-Thurs., 10 am-6 pm, Fri.-Sat., 10 am-10 pm,
Sun., noon-6 pm

The tradition of ordering a long-neck beer while you shop is still alive at this authentic western shop, opened in 1905. In addition to western wear and gear, you can also order a handmade hat from Rand's Custom Hats.

RYON'S SADDLE & RANCH SUPPLIES
2601 N. Main St., ☎ 800-725-7966, ☎ 817-625-2391,
Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm

If horses could shop, they'd probably come to Ryon's. Halters, blankets, reigns, bits and spurs are all here, as are Wranglers, Levis and Rocky Mountain blue jeans. Their Western wear ranges from what a cowboy might need on the ranch to formal cowboy wear.

The Cultural District

Right along Camp Bowie Blvd. And along 7th Street, adjacent to the arts district, you'll find a host of galleries, boutiques and upscale specialty shops. There are 30 blocks of shopping. Here are but a few highlights.

ANTIQUE COLONY
7200 Camp Bowie Blvd., ☎ 817-731-7252

Located right in the heart of the arts district, the Antique Colony keeps an eclectic collection of antiques on hand at all times.

EDGE OF GLASS
4911 Camp Bowie Blvd., ☎ 817-731-8388

Co-owner and glass artist Terry Maxwell produces much of the work she sells right her in the shop. However, the shop includes glass pieces from a variety of artists.

STRINGS
3425 W. 7th St., ☎ 817-336-8042

Strings boasts a unique collection of gifts, including clocks, candles, frames and furniture. Many of its items are one-of-a-kind.

Adventure

FOREST PARK
Southern edge of the Trinity River's Clear Fork, south of I-30

Forest Park stretches along the Clear Fork of the Trinity River around the Fort Worth Zoo and Colonial Country Club.

The Forest Park miniature train begins in Fort Worth Zoo and winds through Trinity Park along the banks of the Trinity River. As the longest miniature train ride in the world, at five miles, it is very popular with both kids and adults. You'll see the train station on your left after you've made the turn-off for the Fort Worth Zoo before the parking area.

FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDENS & JAPANESE GARDEN
3220 Botanic Garden Dr, ☎ 817-871-7689,
7 days, 8 am-sundown

The Fort Worth Botanic Gardens and Japanese Garden are the oldest in Texas, thriving with exotic flora and smells of over 150,000 different plants. Spread over 110 acres, the botanical gardens are especially beautiful in late April and October when over 3,400 roses are at their peak bloom.

A fragrance garden was created especially for the blind, but can be enjoyed by all. Seasonal plants bloom throughout the year but springtime brings the most color and excitement.

The Japanese Gardens occupy more than seven acres and are open every day from 9 am-7 pm. There is a small fee for entry into the Japanese Gardens. You can also enjoy the Conservatory for a nominal fee. The bulk of the botanical garden charges no admission.

There is also a gift shop and a restaurant on-site, which serves a delicious Sunday brunch.

FORT WORTH NATURE CENTER & REFUGE

9601 Fossil Ridge Road, ☎ 817-237-1111
Gates: 7 days, 9 am-5 pm; Center: Tues.-Sat., 9 am-5 pm, Sun., noon-5 pm; free

What you see at this refuge depends on the day you visit and the quality of your eyesight. With 3,500 acres of natural terrain, there are plenty of hiding places for the wildlife. You might see buffalo, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, prairie dogs, egrets and herons. The park has preserved North Texas terrain as it was hundreds of years ago, with wide prairies, river bottom forest and marshy channels.

A 25-mile trail system, designed for all levels of hikers (including wheelchairs), criss-crosses the grounds. Several times a year, the center hosts Canoe Fests offering Trinity River canoe trips with guides. Bird-watchers have found the park an exceptional place to

view species from around the nation. Attend programs and pick up maps at the interpretive center.

FORT WORTH WATER GARDENS
South of Fort Worth Convention Center between W. Lancaster and Commerce

Created by nationally recognized architect Philip Johnson, who also designed the John F. Kennedy memorial in downtown Dallas, the Fort Worth Water Gardens were an immense undertaking. Encompassing 4½ city blocks and using 17,000 cubic yards of concrete, the gardens took eight years to complete.

Designed so that visitors can virtually step into the cascading series of waterfalls, more than 19,000 gallons of water spray, flow and fall each minute. The gardens include more than 500 species of plants and trees, including coastal live oak and bald cypress; the groundcover blends 32,000 plants, including azaleas, junipers and English ivy. The gardens are especially lovely in the evening when special lights from above and within the falls create a complex vision of light and water.

LA BUENA VIDA VINEYARDS
TX 199 northeast, five miles past Lake Worth,
☎ 817-237-9463

Wine devotees will enjoy a trip out to La Buena Vida Vineyards for tasty samples of their signature port and red and white wines. You can tour the nearby winery by appointment.

QUEEN MARIA RIVERBOAT
Lake Worth at the Hwy 199 bridge,
☎ 817-238-9778

Sailing the waters of Lake Worth, this 400-passenger paddlewheel boat is available year round for private charters and from April to October for public dinner cruises. Call ahead for current information.

TEXAS INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

☎ 888-FW-SPEED, www.texasmotorspeedway.com

The 150,000-seat sports track is the second largest sports facility in the world and the only one to offer dual-banked turns, which allows both Indy-style racing and NASCAR Winston Cup stock car events.

TRINITY PARK

North of I-30 next to the Cultural District

Stretching for two miles along the Clear Fork of the Trinity River on the southeast corner of the Cultural District, Trinity Park includes over eight miles of jogging and biking trails. It stretches south of 7th Street to I-30 on the western edge of the river. You can rent bikes, roller skates and paddleboats at the River Ridge Pavilion (3201 Riverfront), which serves as a kind of focal point for the riverfront trail.

LAKE WORTH

TX 199 northwest nine miles and follow signs

Lake Worth is a convenient city-owned park that offers 3,560 acres of water sports and facilities for picnicking, walking and lounging.

EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE

Just north of Lake Worth lies Eagle Mountain Lake, an area marked by solitude and beautiful sloping hills juxtaposed with steep canyon walls. The large basin on its southern shore attracts a number of sailors and is home to the Fort Worth Boat Club, a very active private marina that hosts races and pleasure cruises year-round. Fishermen find the narrow fingers that feed the lake and wind north great for catching a variety of fish. There are lots of ways to get to the lake (which also serves as the city's water supply), so call the **Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau** (☎ 800-433-5747) with specific needs. Boat rentals are available in several areas, as are facilities for fishing.

BENBROOK LAKE
US 377 southwest 12 miles, ☎ 817-292-2400

On the southern end of town lies Benbrook Lake, which has been molded into a complete recreational facility by the Army Corps of Engineers. Six parks dot the lake's shores, offering swimming, fishing, boating, water-skiing, hiking, picnicking and camping. A golf course meets the northern edge of the lake (**Pecan Valley Golf Course**) and **Dutch Brand Park** provides horseback riding trails along with horses to rent.

TOUR 18 GOLF COURSE
8718 Amen Corner, Flower Mound,
☎ 817-430-2000 or 800-946-5310

Have you always wanted to play Augusta? How about Sawgrass? Tour 18 boasts that nothing here is original. Each hole is a careful imitation of famous holes at famous courses around the world. During one round, you'll visit Augusta, Sawgrass and 16 other famed courses. Greens fees include a cart and are under $90.

With the Kids

FORT WORTH ZOO
1989 Colonial Parkway, ☎ 817-871-7050,
www.fortworthzoo.com,
every day, 10 am-5 pm, with abbreviated holiday hours

The Fort Worth Zoo provides perpetual excitement, with over 5,000 exotic and native species represented. Established in 1909, it is the oldest continuous zoo site in Texas. It has been voted by several sources as one of the best zoos in the nation. If you're trying to pick a zoo in North Texas, pick Fort Worth (San Antonio is the other notable Texas zoo). Designers have

gone out of their way to make the grounds lush and enjoyable, more park-like and peaceful than most medium-sized zoos.

Among the exhibits is the **African Savannah**, where giraffes and both black and white rhinos roam freely as they would in the wild. Zoo guests can watch them from thatched lookout areas. Similarly, the **Thundering Plains** exhibit spans two acres of habitat and counts American bison, Mexican wolves and wild turkeys as its residents.

THE LOG CABIN VILLAGE

2100 Log Cabin Village Lane, ☎ 817-926-5881, closed Monday, Tues.-Fri 9 am-5 pm, Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm

The Log Cabin Village is a step back into frontier life. Seven different pioneer log cabins were relocated to the site, restored and furnished with pieces reflective of the early and mid-1800s. Costumed interpreters tend to their daily chores on the two-acre living museum.

NRH2O FAMILY WATER PARK

9001 Grapevine Hwy., www.nrh2O.com, ☎ 817-656-6500

All the water fun one family can handle, NRH20 has everything from a wave pool to the Endless River to the Green Extreme. The "NRH" in its name stands for "North Richland Hills," the community in which it is based. The water park is open from mid-May through the summer.

FOREST PARK TRAIN RIDE

University Drive at Fort Worth Zoo, ☎ 817-336-3328

Kids can enjoy what is billed as the longest miniature train ride in the world in Forest Park. The Forest Park Train Ride carries its occupants five miles along

the Trinity River. They are open Tues.-Sun., from 11 am-5 pm. During the week, the trains usually run on the hour. On weekends and holidays, however, other trains are added to the rotation and rides can be as frequent as every 20 minutes. The $3 admission is more than worth it.

After Dark

BASS PERFORMANCE HALL
4th and Calhoun, ☎ 817-212-4200, 888-597-7827 (tickets), www.basshall.com

The newest addition to the cultural mix in Fort Worth is the Nancy Lee & Perry R. Bass Performance Hall, considered the last great performing arts hall built in the 20th century. The $60 million entertainment mecca contributes world-caliber performances and anchors **Sundance Square**, Fort Worth's downtown entertainment district.

BILLY BOB'S TEXAS
2520 Rodeo Plaza, www.billybobstexas.com, ☎ 817-624-7117, Mon.-Sat., 11 am-2 pm, Sun., noon-2 am

As the biggest honky tonk in the world, this will be an evening of entertainment you shouldn't pass up. See the Stockyards section (page 75) for complete information on how to have a foot-stomping good time.

CARAVAN OF DREAMS
312 Houston St., ☎ 817-877-3000

One of the most popular theaters, this is a combination theater, nightclub and rooftop grotto bar. Nontraditional plays and performers are the norm, but the Caravan routinely lands internationally acclaimed acts.

J&J BLUES BAR
937 Woodward, ☎ 817-870-2337

The favorite blues bar in Fort Worth, J&J has been attracting a mixed crowd for over a decade. Everyone from blues aficionados to TCU students turns out for the consistently good music.

THE FLYING SAUCER
111 E. Fourth St., ☎ 817-336-7468

It's loud and boisterous and serves over 200 varieties of beer. What else do you need to know? The din of fellow beer drinkers is often joined by local music favorites.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALOON
106 E. Exchange Ave, ☎ 817-624-1887

The Stockyard District would never have survived without a proper saloon. The White Elephant has tried its best to be that place and if you're interested in wetting a thirsty whistle, it can please any palate. It has been around for over 100 years and was once a haven for gamblers and gunfighters.

Calendar of Events

January

FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO
www.fortworthstockshow.com, ☎ 817-877-2400

First established in 1896, it's one of the largest in the nation, drawing upwards of 800,000 visitors. It is also the oldest livestock show in the nation. It runs about two weeks beginning in late January.

February

COWTOWN MARATHON
☎ 817-735-2033

Thousands of runners from around the world gather in the Stockyards National Historic District for the Marathon and 10K run through Downtown and Fort Worth neighborhoods. It takes place the last weekend in February.

April

MAIN STREET ART FESTIVAL
☎ 817-336-ARTS

Fort Worth cordons off nine blocks of its brick-paved Main Street to host the Southwest's largest art festival. Over 200 artists and 400 entertainers participate in the festival. Runs Thurs.-Sun. on mid-April weekend.

May

COLONIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Colonial Country Club, 3735 Country Club Cir.,
☎ 817-927-4280.

Annually hosted around the third weekend in May, the Colonial is one of the more prestigious PGA events in the nation, with a history of attracting the world's top golf talents.

June

CHISHOLM TRAIL ROUND-UP
Stockyards District
☎ 817-625-7005

More than 150,000 visitors show up for this Fort Worth tradition that began in 1977. Trail rides, reen-

acted gun fights, cook-offs, chuckwagon races, country music and street dances round out this family-oriented fair. Mid-June, Friday to Sunday.

Restaurants

For most visitor purposes, Fort Worth can be divided into three primary districts: the Cultural District, Sundance Square (downtown), and the Stockyards.

Sundance Square Restaurants

8.O. (EIGHT-O)
111 E Third Street, ☎ 817-336-0880

You might not expect something this trendy (and health-conscious) in downtown Fort Worth. Massive murals cover the walls. They have a wonderful people-watching patio large enough to accommodate hundreds of drinkers and eaters. Happy-hour drinks are ornate.

The yuppies come here after work.

ANGELUNA RESTAURANT
215 E Fourth Street, ☎ 817-334-0080

Contemporary global cuisine brought to visitors by Joe Cosniac, owner of the famed Mezzaluna restaurant in Aspen, CO. It derived its name from the majestic 50-foot trumpeting angel that adorns the Bass Performance Hall, overlooking the restaurant. American, Oriental and European flavors mingle in this eclectic menu.

They take reservations.

BILLY MINER'S SALOON
150 W. Third Street; ☎ 817-877-3301,
http://BillyMiner.com

The simple Texas menu, including Texas-size burgers, steaks and ice-cold beer, makes Billy Miner's a

popular downtown bar. Big-screen TVs make it a good place for watching sports as well. The real Billy Miner, a spirited rogue and non-violent train robber from the mid-1800s, would most likely be proud of his namesake.

DEL FRISCO'S DOUBLE EAGLE STEAKHOUSE
812 Main St., ☎ 817-877-3999

Everyone agrees that this meat palace is probably the best in town. But the swanky steakhouse comes with a considerable price tag. Not for the faint of money.

THE GRAPE ESCAPE
500 Commerce St., ☎ 817-336-9463

The Grape Escape boasts an extensive wine selection, with a light cuisine menu that includes items like cheeses, pâtés, sandwiches and carpaccio. You can purchase one of the 80 wines by the half-glass, glass or bottle. Or you can order flights, allowing you to sample four different wines under the same label. Each sample is about 1½ ounces.

LA MADELINE
305 Main Street; ☎ 817-332-3639;

Though a chain, La Madeline consistently bakes up French and European-style pastries and lunch fare. Crisp mornings and afternoons are best spent on the soothing patio.

MARBLE SLAB CREAMERY
Houston between 2nd and 3rd, next to Caravan of Dreams, ☎ 817-335-5877

The downtown crowds flock here after a movie or a show at Caravan. Goodies include ice cream, yogurt, malts and everything that goes on top.

MI COCINA
509 Main Street, ☎ 817-877-3600

Neighborhood Tex-Mex known for its mambo-taxi margaritas. Locals also like the flan, chilequiles and the "secret" egg dishes that won't appear on the menu. Ask your waitperson.

RANDALL'S GOURMET CHEESECAKE CO.
907 Houston St., ☎ 817-336-2253

This Randall's is not to be confused with the grocery store chain sharing the same name. Purely a one-of-a-kind establishment, Randall's takes cheesecake to another level. You can enjoy the traditional cheesecake dessert in all its varied flavors, or a cheesecake entrée, which could include things like Parmesan, feta cheese or asparagus.

RAZZOO'S CAJUN CAFÉ
318 Main Street, ☎ 817-429-7009

Razzoo's blends Cajun creole with Texas. Louisiana-inspired appetizers include gumbo ("gumbaux," according to Razzoo's), boudin, fried gator tail, and the popular "Rat-Toes," fried jalapenos stuffed with crab and shrimp. Entrées range from the lighter po' boy sandwiches to Texafied Cajun dishes (like Cajun fried steak) to pure Cajun. The Chicken Tchoupitoulas is a local favorite. Try out the Jaws Seafood Platter, an assortment including gator tails, fried shrimp, oysters, catfish tenders and crawdaddy tails. It serves four regular folks (or two Cajuns).

There's also live entertainment on the weekends.

REATA RESTAURANT
Bank One Building
35th Floor, 500 Throckmorton Street,
☎ 817-336-1009, www.reata.net

The experience begins with the incredible view of the city and extends well into the meal. Reata began in

1995 in Alpine, a small West Texas town, and is the brainchild of chef Grady Spears and Al Micallef, a rancher and businessman. Their southwestern fare with subtle touches that would make you believe you're sitting around the campfire, has wowed the world and earned lavish respect on a national level. The Fort Worth location opened in 1996 and has been packed ever since. Chef Grady Spears has become a national spokesperson for cowboy fare, publishing two books with his recipes: *A Cowboy in the Kitchen: Recipes from Reata and Texas West of the Pecos*; and *Cowboy Cocktails: Boot-Scootin' Beverages and Tasty Vittles from the Wild West*.

Reservations are recommended.

RISCKY'S BARBECUE
300 Main St., ☎ 817-877-3306

Part of the Riscky's clan that began in the Stockyard district in the late 1920s. All the barbecue here is hand trimmed, rubbed with "Riscky Dust" and smoked for hours in a wood-burning pit. Three generations of Risckys have been serving chopped beef brisket sandwiches, pork ribs and fresh fried catfish.

Cultural District Restaurants

ANGELO'S BARBECUE
2533 White Settlement Rd., ☎ 817-332-0357

True barbecue takes a long time to cook and a short time to eat. Angelo's takes its time in producing brisket tender enough to win awards year after year. Don't worry about making a mess. Its rustic and unassuming here.

THE BALCONY OF RIDGLEA
6100 Camp Bowie Blvd, ☎ 817-731-3719

Jacket and tie are suggested for dinner, which should tell you something about the continental cuisine's elegance. The Balcony is a place for special occasions and flaming desserts. Piano music makes Friday and Saturday nights romantic interludes.

BISTRO LOUISE
2900 S. Hulen St. (Oak Park Ln.), ☎ 817 922-9244

Touted by *Zagat's* as Fort Worth's most popular restaurant, the bistro's decor transports you to the Riviera. The Mediterrean fare is both light and tasty.

BLUE MESA GRILL
1600 S. University Dr., ☎ 817-332-6372
www.bluemesagrill.com

The accolades Blue Mesa has received range from Best Salsa (awarded by Dallas firefighters) to "One of the top five southwestern restaurants in the DFW area," as judged by *Zagat's* guide to Dallas/Fort Worth. They spice up happy hour Monday through Friday with a free quesadilla bar, and their Sunday brunch, which includes champagne and mimosas, is very popular. They take reservations.

Try their spa chicken and spinach enchiladas.

CAFÉ ASPEN
6103 Camp Bowie Blvd, ☎ 817-738-0838

Pasta, chicken and fish served up contemporary American-style. The eclectic menu is sure to please, as is the homemade dessert buffet.

CARSHON'S DELI
3133 Cleburne Road, ☎ 817-923-1907

Carshon's, with its kosher pastrami and corned beef sandwiches, has been a tradition in Fort Worth for years. The deli menu won't surprise you, but sometimes that's the point.

This old-fashioned corner grocery serves the best burgers in town.

Eat outdoors on the patio Monday through Saturday.

KINCAID'S
4901 Camp Bowie Blvd., ☎ 817-732-2881

Every town has one of these. A place where the burgers are always juicy and fresh and nothing else will do.

RAILHEAD SMOKEHOUSE
2900 Montgomery St., ☎ 817-738-9808

Ribs, brisket, turkey, pork and chicken are cooked slowly to capture that smoky flavor and make each piece tender to the touch.

Stockyard Area Restaurants

BOOGER RED'S SALOON & RESTAURANT
109 E Exchange Ave, Stockyards Hotel,
☎ 817-625-6427

Groups of up to 65 can pull up a saddle (they double as bar stools) and enjoy standard southern fare that includes burgers, steaks and several chicken fried options.

CATTLEMEN'S STEAK HOUSE
2458 North Main Street, ☎ 817-624-3945,
www.cattlemenssteakhouse.com

If you like their juicy steaks, you can have them airmailed home using their mail order service. This Stockyard icon has been around almost half a century. You'll find porterhouse sirloin, filet mignon, tenderloin, ribs, chicken, lobster and shrimp.

EL RANCHO GRANDE
1400 N. Main, ☎ 817-624-9206

They've been serving up Mexican food and cocktails for over 50 years. Closed on Sundays.

JOE T. GARCIA'S
2201 N. Commerce St., ☎ 817-626-4356

This is *the* Fort Worth institution for Mexican food, a hoppin' Mexican restaurant. Reservations are recommended for large groups. There are no menus, but the regular dinner (two enchiladas, two tacos, two nachos, and all the fixings) should satisfy anyone.

RISCKY'S BARBECUE
140 E. Exchange, ☎ 817-626-7777

Polish immigrants Joe and Mary Riscky opened up a grocery store in the Stockyard area in 1927. Their grocery store, which served barbecue as well, has blossomed into a multi-member institution run by their grandson, Jim Riscky. A special "Riscky Dust" is added to the meats before they are smoked in a wood-burning pit designed and built by young Jim Riscky.

Several items on the menu have been there since 1927.

Restaurants in Other Areas

CAMPO VERDE
7108 Hwy 80 W, ☎ 817-731-1052

Primarily Tex-Mex, but you have to try the fajitas. They're made out of rattlesnake, ostrich, elk, buffalo or alligator, depending on your taste (they also serve traditional beef and chicken fajitas).

DRAKE'S CAFETERIA
951 E. Rosedale St., ☎ 817-332-5832

This old fashioned lunchroom provides food for the soul, with smothered chicken, sweet potato pie, chittlins and fresh greens. The crowd every day is consistent, as is the food.

EDELWEISS GERMAN RESTAURANT
3801A Southwest Blvd, ☎ 817-738-5934

Singing along with the oompah bands is contagious. You'll love all the traditional German dishes, from sauerbraten to schnitzel.

Accommodations

AZALEA PLANTATION BED & BREAKFAST
1400 Robinwood Dr, 76111,
☎ 817-838-5882, $110-$159

There are two rooms and two cottages, all with private baths and some with Jacuzzi tubs.

The large plantation-style home is only 10 minutes from downtown Fort Worth. Springtime is especially lovely, with a huge crop of colorful azaleas filling out the grounds. The big front porch, gazebo and two acres of grounds are favorites with honeymooners and travelers who prefer quiet, starry nights.

BED AND BREAKFAST AT THE RANCH
8275 Wagley Robertson Road, 76131,
www.bandbattheranch.com,
☎ 817-232-5522, ☎ 888-593-0352, $75-$159

Stretched out over 15 acres of North Texas range, this four room home was once owned by one of Fort Worth's founding father, Lt. Col. Van Zandt. In addition to standard amenities, you'll also find a piano, fireplace, three-hole putting green and loaner mountain bikes.

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
601 Main Street, 76102,
☎ 817-885-8700, 800-321-2211 (reservations),
$99-$125

Adjacent to Sundance Square, this historical building has been revamped to accommodate business travelers as well as pleasure seekers. The first skyscraper in

Fort Worth, it has been designated a Texas Historical Landmark. It also features dual phones with data ports, executive meeting rooms, an outdoor heated pool, a corner bakery and a location convenient to both play and work.

ETTA'S PLACE, A SUNDANCE INN
200 W. Third St., 76102,
☎ 817-654-0267, $125-$165

The Sundance Kid's girlfriend Etta is the namesake for this uniquely Texas 10-room getaway perched on the second story of the same building that houses the Caravan of Dreams Performing Arts Center in Sundance Square. A residential-style bed-and-breakfast, Etta's Place was created for the discriminating traveler. Among their services: wine or champagne on arrival, picnic baskets, Swedish massage, meeting and reception facilities, next-day dry cleaning, complimentary gourmet breakfast and private four-course dinners.

GREEN OAKS PARK HOTEL
6901 West Freeway, 76116,
☎ 800-433-2174, 817-738-7311, $79-$99

All the amenities you could ask for, including two outdoor pools and a large restaurant. You can play tennis on tournament-designed courts or go to the golf course adjacent to the hotel. Green Oaks is across the highway from Ridgmar Mall (featuring stores like Neiman Marcus), and Downtown Fort Worth is five minutes away by car.

MISS MOLLY'S HOTEL/BED & BREAKFAST
109½ W Exchange Ave, 76106,
☎ 800-99-MOLLY, 817-626-1522,
$95 room, $170 Miss Josie suite

Located in the Stockyard District, they have opened up eight historic rooms to visitors, complete with iron

beds, antique quilts and claw-foot tubs. This "bawdy house" of the past used to put up gunslingers, cowboys, cattle barons and railroad men. For a special night, ask for the room honoring Miss Josie, the former madam of the establishment. The Victorian room features a draped ceiling and a unique private bath. The other seven rooms share three bathrooms.

RADISSON PLAZA FORT WORTH
815 Main Street, 76102,
☎ 800-333-3333, 817-870-2100

With over 500 rooms, two restaurants and seating for 14,000 attending meetings, the Radisson is a business hub.

RENAISSANCE
200 Main Street, 76102,
☎ 800-433-5677, 817-870-1000,
$159-$219, $350-$475 suites

This luxury hotel, formerly the Worthington, offers the finest in Fort Worth, including four-star dining. **Reflections**, open Tuesday through Saturday for dinner, is classified as continental cuisine but leans toward the exotic (try the ostrich or wild boar). There's also a casual restaurant and 24-hour room service. The athletic club includes an indoor pool and sauna. The suites include TVs in the bathrooms and mini-bars.

STOCKYARDS HOTEL
109 E Exchange Ave, 76106,
☎ 800-423-8471, 817-625-6427,
www.stockyardshotel.com, $119-$260 (suite) week,
$149-$350 (suite) weekend

Erected at the corner of Main and Exchange Streets in 1907, this historic hotel was often home to cattle barons and their families as well as traveling cowboys, merchants and foreign dignitaries. The hotel was de-

stroyed by a 1915 fire, but was rebuilt to look very much like the original. In 1984, the hotel was completely renovated to include the 52-room layout of suites and sleeping rooms still in use today. All sleeping rooms are uniquely fashioned in one of four period decors: Victorian, Mountain Man, Cowboy or Native American. You'll find everything you need at the Stockyards Hotel, including walking access to the entire Stockyards district.

If you're planning on charging a credit card for your stay, the hotel can issue you a card that will work in the Booger Red Saloon and H3 Ranch steakhouse, both of which are next door.

TEXAS HOTEL
2415 Ellis Ave., 76106,
☎ 817-624-2224, 800-866-6660, $59-$79

The Hotel Texas, built in 1939, still maintains its historic exterior with light yellow hollow tile, brick trim and a neon nameplate hanging from its wing. But the 20-room interior has been completely renovated. You can walk to all Stockyard attractions from here.

There's a free continental breakfast each morning for guests.

TEXAS WHITE HOUSE B&B
1417 Eighth Ave, 76104,
☎ 800-279-6491, 817-923-3597, $105-$125

The Texas White House offers three quaint bedrooms in a 1910 post-Victorian house that sits on the edge of downtown. Each of the three rooms comes with a queen-size bed, sitting area and private claw-foot tub. They'll provide candles, lotion and bubble bath for those wanting a relaxing or romantic evening. Business travelers will enjoy the private phone lines, *USA Today* and cable TV. Breakfast is whenever and wherever you would like it, including in your room.

Convenient to both downtown, the Cultural District and TCU.

Addison

Addison, directly north of Dallas, is a gentle mixture of shopping, dining and hotel accommodations, all within a five-mile radius. Three malls – the Galleria, Prestonwood and Valley View – make shopping an easy task. As the "Restaurant Capital of Texas," Addison can fulfill all your dining needs, and then some. For current information on what's going on, ☎ 800-ADDISON.

Things to Do

CAVANAUGH FLIGHT MUSEUM
4572 Claire Chennault, ☎ 972-380-8800,
www.cavanaughflightmuseum.com,
Mon.-Sat., 9 am-5 pm Sun., 11 am-5 pm

The Cavanaugh Flight Museum displays airplanes from World War I and II and the Korean War, including a Spitfire, a MIG 15 and a P-51 Mustang. They also boast a major signed aircraft print art collections in the South.

These aircraft, many of which are rare, comprise one of the largest private aviation collections in the country. Most of the aircraft in the museum are still airworthy and are flown regularly.

The museum also offers rides on two distinctive warbirds, the N2S-4 Stearman or the AT-6 Texan. These aren't "rides" in the museum – these are actual flying time in the cockpit of World War II planes. Call ahead for reservation information on these two planes.

Restaurants

Within its five square miles, Addison boasts more than 135 restaurants, more restaurants per capita than any other city west of the Mississippi. Wherever you are in Dallas, you're likely to end up dining in Addison.

BLUE GOOSE CANTINA
14920 Midway Rd., ☎ 972-726-8771

The margaritas are plentiful at this crowded Tex-Mex haven for college students and a lively weekend crowd. The portions are huge and the food lands somewhere in the middle of the chart in terms of quality.

CANTINA LAREDO
4546 Belt Line Road, in the Addison Market, ☎ 972-458-0962

A fun, festive Tex-Mex joint, Cantina Laredo is especially good for groups or families. They put a little extra zing in their food.

CHAMBERLAIN'S
5330 Belt Line Road, Addison Town Hall Square, ☎ 972-934-2467, www.chamberlains.com

Try the crême brûlée for dessert.

Chamberlain's believes a good steak is made better by good service and exquisite details. Like the extensive wine list, the variety of single malt scotches and the 1930s original lithographs. Along with all the usual steak suspects – prime rib, filet mignon, and ribeye – there's seafood and eclectic selections, like lamb chops and the mixed game grill.

FOGO DE CHAO
4300 Belt Line Rd., ☎ 972-503-7300

You don't run across too many Brazilian steakhouses, but then again there aren't a lot of restaurants like

Fogo de Chao. The menu concentrates mostly on meat. If you leave hungry, you've done something wrong. There's also a massive salad bar with extras like artichoke hearts.

HANA JAPANESE
14865 Inwood Rd., ☎ 972-991-8322

Don't let the strip mall exterior fool you, Hana is well known for its fresh sushi and has room for 200 guests.

KOBE STEAK RESTAURANT
5000 Belt Line Road in Quorum Plaza,
☎ 972-934-8150

This Japanese Steakhouse, open since 1980, offers both atmosphere and fine Japanese food. It also has traditional Japanese-style seating arrangements – make sure your socks are clean and hole-free.

LOMBARDI MARE
5100 Belt Line Rd., ☎ 972-503-1233

They have fish here. In fact, you may find goldfish swimming above your head in suspended fishbowls. Their other aquatic delights are on the menu. The upscale eatery consistently earns praise for its fresh, tasty seafood.

THE MELTING POT
4900 Beltline Rd. #200, ☎ 972-960-7027

If you think fondue is simply melted cheese, you owe it to your taste buds to try the Melting Pot, a fondue restaurant. Appetizers, main courses and desserts are an incredible blend of cheeses, oils, spices, and (in the case of dessert) chocolate. They often offer prix fixe specials.

Go with a group.

MAGIC TIME MACHINE
5003 Belt Line Rd., ☎ 972-980-1903

If Disneyland were a restaurant chain, it could be modeled after the Magic Time Machine, where serv-

ers are dressed for the occasion. You may be served by a saloon keeper in the Old West, Hercules, a she-devil or Bam-Bam from the Flintstones. It's difficult for a theme restaurant to expend equal energy on its food, and Magic Time Machine is no different.

Go for the fun, not for the food.

MATTITO'S CAFÉ MEXICANO
5290 Belt Line Rd., ☎ 972-503-8100

They offer more than 100 flavors of tequila to go along with spicy Tex-Mex fare. Ask for the Bob Armstrong dip. Though not on the menu, it has a very loyal following.

MAY DRAGON
4848 Belt Line Rd., ☎ 972-392-9998

Roll-your-own spring rolls are just part of the fun here. The food has been termed "exquisite" and there's usually live music on Friday and Saturday evenings.

MORTON'S OF CHICAGO
14831 Midway Rd., ☎ 972-233-5858

It's the hit restaurant from of Chicago, well done in Addison. The steaks are specially cut and prepared and the atmosphere is steeped in dark wood and etched glass. Though fairly expensive, it's what you'd expect from a fine steakhouse, including aperitifs and cigars to follow your meal.

SAMBUCA'S JAZZ CAFÉ
15207 Addison Rd., Addison, www.sambucajazzcafe.com, ☎ 972-385-8455

Dallas has had a love affair with Sambuca's since it opened its jazzy doors in Deep Ellum in 1991. Since then, it has set up in Addison. Live jazz every night accents a Mediterranean menu that focuses on fresh, seasonal ingredients with specialties from France, Greece, Italy and North Africa.

TEXAS DE BRAZIL
15101 Addison Rd., ☎ 972-385-1000

Visitors pay one flat price, and then take part in the feast that follows. Waiters continuously tour the Brazilian steakhouse's seating area with roasted entrées, including filet mignon, top sirloin, rack of lamb, pork loin, sausage and chicken.

TOKYO ONE SUSHI
4350 Beltline Rd., ☎ 972-386-8899

For a fixed price of $23, visitors help themselves to Tokyo One's extensive sushi and sashimi. There's also prime rib, a teriyaki grill, oysters, and dozens of other items, including a dessert bar.

Accommodations

Because this is a business-oriented neighborhood, most Addison hotels are considerably cheaper on weekends than during the week.

HILTON GARDEN INN
4090 Belt Line Road, ☎ 972-233-8000,
$89 weekends, $119-$139 week

All the standard amenities you might need, including an exercise room and an outdoor pool with Jacuzzi. Each room includes a microwave and small refrigerator, and there are a number of suites available.

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL
15201 Dallas Parkway,
☎ 972-386-6000, $119-$179

A convention hotspot, the InterContinental boasts 529 guest rooms, 37 suites and over 100,000 square feet of room to move. The food here is good, but in Addison it matters little since there are plenty of dining

choices. There's also a car rental agency on the property, in addition to a gift shop and jewelry store.

MARRIOTT QUORUM
14901 Dallas Parkway, ☎ 972-661-2800,
$79-$89 weekend, $179 week

With 550 rooms, Addison's Marriott weighs in as one of the area's largest hotels. Amenities include indoor and outdoor pools, a sauna and healthclub, tennis courts, complimentary in-room coffee, and a free weekday newspaper.

Arlington

Not only is Arlington the "Midway of the Metroplex," many children consider it the fun center of the universe. Amusement parks dot the landscape. The short list of theme parks includes Air Combat, Six Flags Over Texas, Hurricane Harbor and Mountasia Fantasy Golf. Baseball-lovers consider it a center of the universe as well, with the Texas Rangers playing all of their home games at the Ballpark in Arlington.

With 270,000 residents, Arlington is a sizable city on its own. For information and current events, contact the **Arlington Convention and Visitors Bureau** at ☎ 800-433-5374 or 817-265-7721, www.arlington.org. You can also visit the **Arlington Visitor Information Center** (1905 E. Randol Mill Rd, 76011, ☎ 800-342-4305) during normal business hours.

Things to Do

Historic Sites

THE ARLINGTON HISTORICAL PARK
621 W. Arkansas, ☎ 817-460-4001,
Wed-Sat., 10 am-2 pm, Sun., 1:30-4:30 pm

The Arlington Historical Park provides some historical context to the area. What began as a plantation now includes two log cabins, a one-room schoolhouse and a rustic barn, thanks in large part to the Fielder Foundation, which has moved several historic buildings to the site.

Museums & Galleries

ANTIQUE SEWING MACHINE MUSEUM
804 W. Abram, ☎ 817-275-0971,
Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm

While the art of sewing has become more and more obsolete among the urban sprawl of the US, it hasn't been forgotten at the Antique Sewing Machine Museum. The collection includes a 1948 Singer that originally belonged to the actress who played Aunt Bea on *The Andy Griffith Show*. An 1858 Wheeler-Wilson is the oldest piece on display, for those who are familiar with the sewing revolution. For those that aren't familiar with it, there are over 150 educational pieces to check out.

ARLINGTON MUSEUM OF ART
201 W. Main Street, ☎ 817-275-4600,
Wed.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm

Texas is proud of its size and depth, as is the Arlington Museum of Art, which focuses on contemporary Texas art. The 10,000-square-foot gallery features rising and emerging Texas artists. Children's educational programs offer hands-on experiences. A gift shop has hand-crafted gifts, jewelry and accessories.

THE FIELDER MUSEUM
1616 W. Abram, ☎ 817-460-4001,
Wed.-Fri., 10 am-2 pm; Sun., 1:30-4:30 pm

The Fielder Museum, housed in James Park Fielder's 1914 two-story farmhouse, was one of the first buildings in the area to enjoy indoor plumbing. Today the prairie-style house plays host to both traveling exhibits and a permanent collection of period pieces, early photographs of Arlington and a century-old barbershop.

Adventure

LAKE ARLINGTON
6300 West Arkansas Lane, ☎ 817-451-6860

City-owned and run, Lake Arlington is relatively small at 2,275 acres, but has plenty of room for boating, sailing and fishing. You can access the lake through two parks: **Richard Simpson Park** (6300 W Arkansas) and **Bowman Springs Park** (7001 Poly Webb Rd).

There are two outdoor and one indoor facilities open to the public to rent. A small yacht club, Arlington Yacht Club, regularly hosts sailing regattas on the lake. You'll see them every Sunday in the summer.

Over half of Lake Arlington's regular visitors come here for the fish. Anglers are regularly rewarded with large-mouth bass and a variety of catfish (channel, blue and flathead). The park is currently developing a program for lending fishing poles to visitors. Call and see if the program is in place before you head out.

They don't sell fishing licenses at the park. You can pick one up at area Walmart and Target stores. Also, the Texaco station just outside of the Arkansas Lane entrance sells licenses for $5. If you arrive at the park without a license, they will direct you to the station.

RIVER LEGACY LIVING SCIENCE CENTER
703 N.W. Green Oaks Blvd., ☎ 817-860-6752, Tues.-Sat., 9 am-5 pm

The Living Science Center offers a wide range of interactive environmental education exhibits, living aquaria and terraria. Guided nature walks, animal presentations, and special outdoor education programs are scheduled year-round. The science center is funded and operated by a private foundation.

RIVER LEGACY PARK
Corner of Green Oaks & Margaret,
☎ 817-459-5474 (Dallas Parks and Recreation),
every day 5 am-10 pm

The Science Center is part of the larger River Legacy Park, 958 acres of natural landscape winding along the Trinity River in north Arlington. Also included in the park are a playground, hike and bike trails and picnic areas. Springtime is especially good, as the park's display of wildflowers is extensive. There are several striking overlooks to the Trinity River. In addition, there are three pavilions for parties to rent.

With the Kids

AIR COMBAT
921 Six Flags Drive, ☎ 817-640-1886,
www.aircombatschool.com

Air Combat allows thrill-seekers the feel of flying military aircraft in hydraulic-motion base flight simulators. Pilots must go through ground school and suit up in full gear. Reservations are required and the simulation takes around 1½ hours.

THE BALLPARK IN ARLINGTON
1000 Ballpark Way, ☎ 817-273-5222,
www.ballparks.com/baseball/american/bpkarl.htm

For a thick slice of American pie, catch a Texas Rangers game at Arlington Stadium. With about 80 home games a year, you have a 50/50 chance of catching a game during the season.

The Ballpark is an attraction in itself and includes The Legends of the Game Baseball Museum and Children's Learning Center, a 17,000-sq.-ft. facility. The Ballpark complex also includes the Dr Pepper Youth Ballpark.

For information on Texas Rangers tickets contact ☎ 817-273-5100, www.texasrangers.com.

LEGENDS OF THE GAME BASEBALL MUSEUM
1000 Ballpark Way,
☎ 817-273-5600 or 817-273-5059
April-October, Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6:30 pm, Sun., noon-4 pm; November-March, Tues.-Sat., 9 am-4 pm, Sun., noon-4 pm; times vary on game days, so call ahead.

This museum, located on the south side of The Ballpark in Arlington, includes the best baseball memorabilia outside of The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown. It occupies 17,000 square feet on two floors.

The main floor is divided into defense, hitters, sluggers and pitchers, with jerseys, gloves, bats, balls and trophies. Memorabilia for Ruth, Gehrig, Clemente, Hornsby, Carew, Aaron, Cobb and many more is on display. The famous "King of Swat" crown given to Babe Ruth in 1921 by his friends in New York is one of the special features of the museum.

There are also exhibits on the stars of the Negro Leagues, including Satchel Paige, as well as an exhibit on women in professional baseball. A replica of the KLIF radio broadcast booth from which Gordon McLendon re-created his Baseball Game of the Day allows visitors to listen to 10 minutes of actual broadcasts from the Golden Age of Baseball in the early 1950s.

The second floor captures the Texas Rangers' history. There are displays on the Washington Senators during the team's transition in 1972 all the way to the team's current heroes.

A 225-seat auditorium features films and videos on the history of baseball.

The Learning Center features interactive exhibits on baseball and explains how the sport is related to fields such as science, math, history, geography and literature.

MOUNTASIA FANTASY GOLF
1111 Wet 'n Wild Way, ☎ 817-460-3600

You'll encounter waterfalls, caves, rivers and other obstacles as you putt your way around this 54-hole miniature golf course. The massive clubhouse includes an extensive arcade.

SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS
I-30 at State Hwy. 360, ☎ 817-640-8900,
www.sixflags.com

Go during the week to beat the weekend crowds.

Six Flags Over Texas, named for the six different political entities that governed Texas, is 205 acres of breathtaking rides, souvenirs, carnival food and fun. The Texas Giant, a 143-foot wooden rollercoaster, may be the star, but revelers enjoy more than 100 rides. Over two million visitors pass through Six Flags' gates each year, a good indication of how busy things can get.

In addition to old favorites – like the Texas Giant – Six Flags is continually adding new and exciting rides and activities. Some of its most recent additions: Batman the Ride, an innovative roller coaster; Gotham City Carnival of Chaos; Batman Stunt Theater; and the Crazy Horse Saloon Big Time Revue.

HURRICANE HARBOR
1800 E. Lamar Blvd., ☎ 817-265-3356,
www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharbordallas

Six Flags' seasonal sister, Hurricane Harbor (across I-30 from Six Flags), is open daily between May and Labor Day and weekends only before and after the season (mid-April through September). You can play hard on 23 different slides or just laze indiscrimi-

nately in its three pools and around Lazy River. Family picnics are welcome, but no glass or alcohol is allowed.

For those in search of excitement, just the names of the rides should pique your interest: the Black Hole, Sea Wolf, Blue Raider, Bubba Tub, Shotgun Falls and Surf Rider.

One of the recent additions is Hook's Lagoon, which features three lagoons, a pirate ship and 150 interactive aquatic exhibits on 12 different levels.

After Dark

COWBOYS
2540 East Abram, ☎ 817-265-1535

Cowboys claims its 3,500-square-foot dance floor is the largest in the state. Even if they're wrong or have been topped, it matters little. There's room to dance. Live country and western bands play Wednesday through Sunday, starting at 7 pm. Come early for dance lessons on Thursday (7-8:30 pm) and Sun. (4:30-8 pm)

HUMPERDINKS BAR & GRILL
700 Six Flags Drive, ☎ 817-640-8553

Also featuring Big Horn Brewery. There are plenty of TVs around to watch your favorite sports. There's also a DJ every night of the week.

JOHNNIE HIGH'S COUNTRY MUSIC REVUE
Arlington Music Hall, 224 N. Center Street, ☎ 817-226-4400, 800-540-5127,
www.mid-cities.com/cmr

Dazzling audiences for more than 25 seasons, Johnnie High's features a cast of 20 singers, dancers and musi-

cians. You'll find both old talent and new talent. Every Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 pm.

Restaurants

BOBBY VALENTINE
SPORTS GALLERY CAFÉ (BOBBY V'S)
4301 S. Bowen, ☎ 817-467-9922

Sports memorabilia covers the wall and sports references dot the menu. You can choose from Tommy Lasorda's Garden Pasta or some DiMaggio Stix. Or maybe a Major League Burger. A full bar tops off this sporting event.

CACHAREL
2221 East Lamar,
☎ 817-640-9981, closed Sundays

If you get tired of hotdogs at the ballpark and nachos at Six Flags, you'll find a wonderful respite at Cacharel, offering elegant French-American selections. Both lunch and dinner offer fixed price meals ($15 and $39 respectively). A la carte items are also available if you don't want the full meal treatment. Reservations are recommended.

There's also a children's menu.

CATFISH SAM'S
2735 W. Division, ☎ 817-275-9631

It's been an Arlington favorite since it open in 1952. Catfish comes either fried or broiled, and if you're not in the catfish frame of mind, you also have choices of chicken, shrimp and beef. Extras include hushpuppies, fries, baked potatoes, coleslaw, beans, green tomato relish and pickled okra.

EL ARROYO
5024 S. Cooper, ☎ 817-468-2557

The original Austin El Arroyo was built over an arroyo and is lovingly referred to as "The Ditch." It has retained its popularity in Arlington, where consistent Tex-Mex food and margaritas keep the crowds coming.

MARQUEZ BAKERY
1730 E. Division, ☎ 817-265-8858,
Mon.-Sat., 7 am.-8 pm, Sun., 7 am-3 pm

They've kept it simple here and don't follow trendy menu changes. They use the recipes they've been using for decades. Try the migas (a spicy egg dish) for breakfast. You won't be disappointed.

PAPPADEAUX
1304 Copeland Rd., ☎ 817-543-0544

Part of the ever-popular Pappas chain, this showstopper serves up Cajun-flavored seafood. Many of its portions are big enough to split, just as many of their appetizers can make a meal.

PORTOFINO RESTAURANTE
226 Lincoln Square, ☎ 817-861-8300

Portofino is an elegant Italian bistro with superior service and a variety of continental Italian items. Their menu ranges from the classics, like Fettuccini Alfredo, to roasted duck entrées.

TRAIL DUST STEAK HOUSE
2300 E Lamar Blvd, ☎ 817-640-6411

Juicy steaks and other delectables are the norm. You can work it off afterwards with live country music and lots of room for dancing.

Accommodations

Several of the hotels have teamed up with the city for use of the Arlington trolley system, a fleet of air-conditioned trolleys that travel between all of the major attractions in the area – Six Flags Over Texas, Hurricane Harbor and the Ballpark – at 30-minute intervals. The door-to-door service can eliminate the need to drive, pay parking fees and tour the far reaches of mammoth parking lots. Check with your hotel to see if it participates in the program. Many also offer packages to Six Flags and other area attractions.

BALL PARK INN
903 North Collins, 76011,
☎ 817-261-3621, $69-$99

The Ball Park Inn includes a breakfast restaurant, cocktail lounge, outdoor swimming pool and exercise facilities. It's also within two miles of Six Flags Over Texas, Hurricane Harbor and The Ballpark in Arlington; but it's not on the trolley system.

COUNTRY SUITES BY CARLSON
1075 Wet 'n Wild Way,
☎ 800-456-4000, 817-261-8900,
$109-$120 (2 bedroom)

Every room is a suite with a separate living area.

Right in the middle of fun-ville, they've got all the basic amenities, including free shuttle service to and from the airport. The outdoor heated pool includes a kid's area and a whirlpool.

HILTON ARLINGTON
2401 East Lamar Blvd., 76006, ☎ 817-640-3322,
800-445-8667, www.hilton.com, $150-$170

For the kids there's an indoor/outdoor pool. For the adults there's a health club, restaurant, live entertainment and bar. They also offer an airport shuttle. The Hilton is on the trolley system.

HOLIDAY INN ARLINGTON
1507 North Watson Rd, 76006,
☎ 800-465-4329, 817-640-7712, $77-$99

Everything you might need, along with live entertainment and both indoor and outdoor pools. They are less than five miles from Six Flags and on the trolley system.

RADISSON SUITE HOTEL
700 Avenue H East, 76011, ☎ 817-640-0440, 800-333-3333, $99-$159, $275 (Presidential Suite)

For a little more luxury, try the local Radisson, with room service, kitchenettes, an indoor/outdoor pool, workout facility and onsite restaurant. This Radisson has earned the triple diamond rating from Triple A and is one mile from Six Flags and Hurricane Harbor.

SANFORD HOUSE
506 North Center Street, 76011, ☎ 817-861-2129
Www.thesanfordhouse.com,
$75-$125 (week), $125-$200 (weekend)

French country-style frame house with seven rooms for rent. There's a library up the spiral staircase, a cozy parlor complete with fireplace, an outdoor pool and gardens that include gazebos and a fountain.

There are also four cottages next door available. Each cottage is fully functional and includes breakfast in the main house.

Carrollton

The town square of Carrollton, also north of Dallas, is still adorned with a traditional gazebo, an indication of the small town that is now a community of more than 100,000. It has doubled in size since 1980.

The downtown area, where the streets are lined with antique and gift shops, makes a unique distinction with its name. It's "old" downtown, called old because in the late 1980s, City Hall moved into a 59,000-square-foot structure on East Jackson Road, away from its home near the town square. The library and police department joined City Hall in the move, and together they make up the Carrollton Municipal Complex, today's new downtown.

Things to Do

Museums

THE A.W. PERRY HOMESTEAD MUSEUM
1509 Perry Rd, ☎ 972-446-0442,
Wed.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm

The A.W. Perry Homestead Museum was restored as part of a bicentennial project. Turn-of-the-century furnishings and tools give visitors a great look back in time.

The homestead was owned by the son of A.W. Perry, one of Carrollton's founding fathers. It was completed in 1909, utilizing building materials carefully salvaged from the first Perry family home, built about 1857.

Shopping

Carrollton Town Square

Old Downtown, bounded by Broadway, 4th Street, Elm and W. Main

The city's town square was originally built in 1900 and today retains much of that era's charm. A fresh spring flowed through the center of the square where the gazebo now stands. There are dozens of shopping choices, many heavy on antiques. Here are just a few.

THE OLD CRAFT STORE
1110 W. Main St., ☎ 972-242-9111

You'll find quilting in many different fashions here, from traditional quilts to clothes to pillowcases. You'll also find the tools you need to quilt, including patterns, classes and materials.

SHAKER WOODWORKS AND ANTIQUES
1026 S. Broadway, ☎ 972-436-7975

You'll find a wide assortment of Shaker-inspired items here, including quilt hangers, oval boxes, cigar humidors, Adirondack chairs, cradles, stepping stools and various pieces of furniture.

Adventure

STONEWORKS
1003 4th Ave, www.stoneworkssilos.com,
☎ 972-323-1047
Open Mon.-Sat. 9 am-10 pm, Sun. 11 am-8 pm
Cost to climb: $10 day pass
Rental fees: $2 harness and gear, $4 shoes, $2 chalk bag

Dallas rock climbers must venture far outside the city for any naturally occurring challenge, heading out for Mineral Wells or Enchanted Rock. There are several climbing gyms that cater to the misplaced climber.

Stoneworks bills itself as the world's tallest climbing gym and utilizes seven grain silos that you climb inside. Climbs range from 10 to 110 feet and take place on a variety of surfaces. In addition to the silos, there are outside routes and a garage used for training. They offer training classes and will organize group trips in North and Central Texas.

EXPOSURE INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING
2389 Midway, ☎ 972-732-0307
Open Mon.-Thurs. 11 am-10 pm, Fri. 11 am-11 pm, Sat. 10 am-11 pm, Sun. 11 am-8 pm
Cost to climb: $10 day pass, $2 for one-time safety test
Rental fees: $3 harness, $5 shoes, $3 chalk bag

Exposure Indoor employs 6,000 feet of vertical, overhanging and slab routes on a realistic rock surface.

With the Kids

SANDY LAKE AMUSEMENT PARK
1800 Sandy Lake Road, ☎ 972-242-7449
Open from the beginning of April to the end of September on weekends and every day from June to the beginning of August (depending on the start of the school year) 10 am-6 pm

Sandy Lake is a welcome old-style amusement park minus much of the testosterone that is injected into places like Six Flags and Disney World. Attractions include close to 50 paddleboats, Shetland pony rides, picnic areas, miniature golf and 19 other rides.

It also boasts one of the best swimming pools around, which opens mid-May and stays open through the summer months.

Restaurants

AMICI SIGNATURE ITALIAN
1022 S. Broadway St., ☎ 972-245-3191

Amici spends more time on its food than on its interior. And when you taste its standard Italian fare, you'll easily forgive the décor. Bring your own wine to this delightful Italian hole-in-the-wall.

SID'S RAINBOW FOUNTAIN & GRILLE
1107 S. Broadway, ☎ 972-242-1621

They still do things the old-fashioned way, with burgers and shakes for affordable prices. You can still get a cherry vanilla soda here.

Accommodations

Carrollton is a suburb without many good places to stay. Here are a few.

RED ROOF INN
1720 S Broadway Street
☎ 972-245-1700
$30-$45

Boasts more than 130 rooms, with modern dataports.

ROYAL INN
1735 S Interstate 35E
% 972-446-8366
$30-$45

Offers free continental breakfast and an outdoor pool.

Denton

There's actual countryside between the historic town of Denton and the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Which may not seem like much to a visitor, but means quite a bit to residents of this small town. It is one of the few towns to survive encroachment. At least so far.

John B. Denton, for whom the town is named, created a varied resumé in his lifetime. Frontier preacher, attorney and Indian fighter, Denton was killed in 1841 while serving as a Texas Ranger Captain. His remains are buried on the Courthouse grounds.

Denton is perhaps most well known for its two universities: the **University of North Texas** (UNT) and **Texas Woman's University** (TWU). UNT, with the nation's second largest school of music, is both a music incubator and innovator. And it rubs off on the town. You'll find UNT music students all over town – in bars and restaurants, in coffeehouses and on front porches – playing concerts.

In fact, every Saturday from May to October, musicians gather on the Courthouse grounds for the **Acoustic Lawn Jam**. Depending on the day, you could have guitars, spoons, autoharps or fiddles. It's a great place to bring your picnic blanket and enjoy lunch.

Stop by the **Denton Visitor Center** (414 Parkway, ☎ 888-381-1818, 940-382-7895, www.denton-chamber.org) for local maps and the most current information. It's open Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5 pm.

Things to Do

Historic Sites

DENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
110 W Hickory

The Denton Courthouse was built in 1896 and fully renovated in 1986. Considered one of the most picturesque buildings in the area, perhaps in the state, it also houses a historical museum that depicts city and country life as it was a century ago.

DENTON TOWN SQUARE
Bordered by Oak Street on the north, Hickory Street on the south, Locust Street on the east, and Elm Street on the west. ☎ 940-349-8529 (Denton Town Square Project)

With the County Courthouse as its centerpiece, the Denton Town Square is a rare step back in time. Winner of the 1999 Great American Main Street Award and the 1998 Texas Urban Main Street City of the Year. There are more than 130 renovated structures in the downtown area. The Square is lined with unique shops, antique and art galleries, restaurants and the Campus Theater, originally built in 1949, abandoned and then renovated in the early 1990s.

Museums & Galleries

DENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE-ON-THE-SQUARE MUSEUM
110 W. Hickory, ☎ 940-565-5667,
Mon.-Fri., 10 am-4:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-3 pm, www.co.denton.tx.us/dept/hcm.htm

Displays include original Denton County and Indian pottery, images of the Courthouse throughout history, early American pattern glass, and photos and artifacts from some of Denton County's original settlers. The museum is also now home to a unique pecan art exhibit that boasts over 300 caricatures of television personalities, historical figures and cartoon characters.

Pecan Art

Pecan artist B.W. Crawford created the eclectic folk art exhibit using hot glue, paint and a little wire. The pecans are pasted and wired together, then painted to resemble famous figures, including Dolly Parton, Batman and Robin, Miss Piggy and E.T. The figurines, each standing roughly six inches tall, are popular with the kids. Crawford began creating his pecan art as a way of promoting his post-retirement business of pecan-cracking. His first piece, which had been placed outside his pecan-cracking shed, was stolen, making Crawford think there might be some greater potential for these nutty creations. He began making characters for his customers and for his personal collection. His widow donated the collection to the museum after Crawford's death in 1998.

DENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & TEXAS HERITAGE CENTER

5800 I-35 N (Exposition Mills mall), 940-380-0877, Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 10 am-4 pm

All of the clues left behind by early Denton County settlers, including thousands of documents and photographs, are housed here in the Texas Heritage Cen-

ter. The museum also includes clues about the life that early North Texans led, with exhibits ranging from early 20th-century quilts to historical photographs. One of the newer exhibits includes games Americans played before television: Parcheesi, chess, bridge, etc.

GOWNS OF THE FIRST LADIES OF TEXAS
Texas Woman's University Campus,
☎ 940-898-2669, Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm

This unique exhibit features actual gowns and replicas of those worn by the wives of the governors of Texas and presidents of the Republic of Texas. It also includes gowns worn by former first ladies Mamie Eisenhower and Lady Bird Johnson during their White House years.

HANGAR 10 FLYING MUSEUM
Denton Municipal Airport, 1945 Matt Wright Lane,
☎ 940-565-1945, Mon.-Sat., 8 am-2 pm

The Flying Air Command, the organization behind the Flying Museum, dedicates itself to preserving World War I and II aircraft and collecting air warfare memorabilia. Currently, the museum is home to four restored planes: a Lockheed 10A, a Stagger Wing, a PT-22 and a small, sporty Piper L-4.

Volunteers operate the museum, so it may be safer to call and confirm they are open before arriving.

LONGHORN GALLERY
101 North Elm, ☎ 940-484-8778,
Tues.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm, Sat., 10 am-4 pm,
www.longhorngallery.com

One of the cornerstones of the Denton town square, Longhorn Gallery tries not to pigeon-hole itself into a specific genre. Its works range from oils to sculpture, from handmade jewelry to hand-etched crystal. Generally, the gallery hosts emerging artists West of the

Mississippi. With 4,500 square feet of space, it has room for a wide variety of pieces. A custom framing gallery is here as well.

Shopping

For shopping, head toward downtown and the town square. There are dozens of antique stores, gift shops, galleries, and eclectic choices for the wandering shopper. Here are just a few of the stores Denton's downtown district has to offer.

THE CANDY STORE
110B W. Oak, ☎ 940-382-1001

With more than 200 different types of candy, how could you go wrong? This old-fashioned confectionery smells just like it should and they even have sugar-free options if you are so inclined.

EVERS'
109 W. Hickory, ☎ 940-382-5513

For over 100 years, the Evers family has occupied this space on Hickory Street. Until the late 1990s, they operated a hardware store. Today, they offer unusual household items that range from cast iron cookware to weathervanes. There are also hat racks, bird houses, blue calico china, lye soap and many other items that defy classification.

STONE SOUP
120 W. Oak, ☎ 940-566-5966

Specializing in eclectic home accessories and gifts, Stone Soup is located on the north side of the square. You'll find lamps, imported pottery, decorative boxes, hand crafted furniture, Italian glass and a variety of unique decorations.

THE COURTHOUSE COLLECTION
111 W. Hickory, ☎ 940-381-1956

Facing the downtown courthouse, the Courthouse Collection is a collectibles dream world. Their collections include: Boyd's Bears, Fenton art glass, Cat's Meow, Sheila's Houses, David Frykman, Rowe & Dedham pottery and candles by Yankee.

Adventure

RAY ROBERTS LAKE
I-35E North to TX 455 (Sanger), then go 5 miles east, ☎ 940-686-2148, www.tpwd.state.tx.us

A growing favorite with anglers, Ray Roberts covers over 29,000 acres on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. A relatively new lake, it was impounded in the late 1980s to provide water for Denton and Dallas. Its two main park units, Isle du Bois and Johnson Branch State Park, were opened in 1993 and 1996 respectively.

There are restrooms with showers; picnic sites; campsites with water and electricity (accessible for the disabled); walk-in and hike-in developed campsites; equestrian campsites (bring your own horses); group picnic pavilions; 16.5 miles of dirt trails for hiking, equestrian and mountain biking; 4.5 miles of paved trail accessible to the disabled; a trailer dump station; a lighted boat ramp; a lighted fishing pier; fish-cleaning facilities; and playgrounds. There's also a full-service park store located in the day-use area next to the swimming beach.

A facility on the lake's north edge includes restrooms with showers; picnic sites; campsites with water and electricity (accessible for the disabled); walk-in campsites; hike-in primitive sites with a tent pad (five

miles of trail). There are group picnic pavilions. Nine total miles of trails include five miles of backpacking trails, hiking, and mountain biking and four miles of paved trails accessible to the disabled. They also have fish-cleaning facilities and playgrounds.

A new addition to the park is a five-mile, single-track mountain bike trail created by Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association (DORBA) volunteers. Call the park (☎ 940-637-2294) for trail conditions or visit the DORBA web page at www.dorba.org for information.

The **Ray Roberts Greenbelt**, a 10-mile multi-use trail system that begins at the Ray Roberts Dam and ends at the headwaters of Lake Lewisville, caters to equestrians, hikers, bikers, canoers, birdwatchers and anglers. You can access the trail at one of three trailheads, located at FM 455, FM 428 and Hwy. 380. Call the park for details and maps.

Canoe and kayak rentals are available by calling **Cross Timbers Outdoors** (☎ 940-872-0404). In addition to the rentals, they'll provide shuttle service to and from the greenbelt area.

If it's boating and fishing you want at Ray Roberts, you can provision and rent boats at the **Lake Ray Roberts Marina** (☎ 940-458-7343). While there, you can purchase fishing licenses, bait, and groceries.

SKYDIVE TEXAS
15 miles west of Denton in Decatur,
www.skydivetexas.com,
☎ 817-430-3696 or 940-627-1100

Skydive Texas has 260 acres devoted to their skydiving enterprise and also have a restaurant, bunkhouse, RV hook-ups and camping sites. They specialize in training, so if you've always had a penchant for jumping out of planes, they'll be able to help you safely.

After Dark

DAN'S BAR
119 S. Elm, ☎ 940-891-1549

Dan's Bar offers live music that varies from folk to jazz to rock or pop. Its eclectic lineup is a product of the rich musical backdrop that UNT provides. Its patrons range from students to professors to cowboys. The food doesn't resemble normal fried bar fare. Instead, they serve chicken pasta, avocado sandwiches and other imaginative fare.

RICK'S PLACE
125 Ave. A, ☎ 940-382-4141

A little bit more youth-oriented than Dan's, Rick's offers lots of drink specials in addition to a popular venue for local music.

Calendar of Events

March

DENTON STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
☎ 940-387-8336, Civic Center Park

For over 15 years in late March, storytellers from across the nation have come together to share their tales over a long weekend, from Friday through Sunday.

April

DENTON ARTS & JAZZ FEST
www.dentonjazzfest.com, ☎ 940-565-0931,
Civic Center Park

Held the last full weekend in April each year, the Festival consistently brings in some of the nation's top

jazz talent. Which isn't all that hard, considering that Denton is one of the top music incubators in the country. The 75,000+ visitors have ample opportunity to hear jazz – more than 1,200 artists on six stages over a 2½-day period (it begins Friday night).

There's no admission charge and the event also includes a juried art competition.

June

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER
☎ 940-349-8529, Denton Courthouse Lawn

While Texas "Dog Days" are hot, Denton decided to interpret the term literally for its annual festival. Dog day events include a Dog Parade, Dog Show, Stupid Pet Tricks, Dog/Owner Singing Contest, "Glamfur Shots" of your pet, dog/master look-alike contests and more.

August

ANNUAL NORTH TEXAS STATE FAIR
☎ 940-387-2632, North Texas Fairgrounds,
2217 N. Carroll Blvd.

August in Denton in usually quite hot. What better for distraction? For close to 75 years, Denton has been hosting world championship rodeos, music, carnival rides and games, fiddling contests, petting zoos and barbecue cook-offs and more.

Restaurants

BETH MARIE'S OLD FASHIONED ICE CREAM & SODA FOUNTAIN
117 W. Hickory, ☎ 940-384-1818,
Mon.-Thur. 11 am-10 pm, Fri.-Sat., 11 am-11 pm

There's great comfort in the realization that no matter how the restaurant business progresses and mu-

tates, there will always be a spot for good old-fashioned ice cream, soda and sandwiches. The ice cream is homemade, as are the waffle cones made before your eyes. They make shakes out of every flavor of ice cream on hand. They also serve lunch from 11 am-2 pm.

DENTON COUNTY INDEPENDENT BURGER CO.
113 W. Hickory, ☎ 940-383-1022
715 Sunset, ☎ 940-382-3037

For over a decade, Denton residents have been feeding their burger cravings at the Denton County Independent Burger Co. In addition to the burgers, the home-cut fries and red beans garner raves. The original location, decorated in Texas paraphernalia and antique signs, is on the square, with a second location on Sunset.

GREENHOUSE RESTAURANT & BAR
600 N. Locust, ☎ 940-484-1349

One of Denton's better restaurants, with a wide selection of steaks, grilled fish and chicken. Although creating artichoke dip isn't usually considered rocket science, the Greenhouse version is a local favorite.

MERCADO JUAREZ
419 S. Elm, ☎ 940-380-0755

Tex-Mex is probably a Texan's biggest comfort food, and Mercado Juarez provides some of the best comfort in Denton. In addition to standard fare – like enchiladas, flautas and fajitas – there's also a selection of grilled meats for the more health-conscious. They also have several vegetarian entrées.

SIAM HOUSE
909 Avenue C, ☎ 940-382-5118

Siam serves traditional Thai fare from its small home near the UNT campus. Many of the dishes change

from day to day, depending on what fresh vegetables the owner found that morning. If you're nuts for spicy food, you'll find your challenge here. And if you pass (by eating dishes with an 8 pepper rating), you can join Siam House's "Wall of Flame."

Accommodations

THE HERITAGE INN
815 N. Locust, ☎ 940-565-6414,
$65 (week)-$115 (weekends)

The Heritage Inn is actually three B&Bs rolled into one and under one management. It includes the *Magnolia Inn (*821 N. Locust), the *Redbud Inn (*815 N. Locust) and the *Pecan Inn* (829 N. Locust). The **Magnolia** includes two large luxury suites with two full-size rooms, private baths with claw-foot tubs and cable TV. There's a hot tub enclosed in a gazebo in the backyard and Guiseppe's Italian Restaurant is downstairs.

The **Redbud Inn**, built in 1910, features two suites with private baths (Walnut Suite and Country Suite) and three bedrooms with private baths, all convenient to the Courthouse Square. The **Pecan Inn** features two luxury rooms with jacuzzi tubs. Chances are, one of the three houses will have what you're looking for.

BISON HOLLOW BED, BREAKFAST & BARN
1149 Raymond Burch Trail, Aubrey, ☎ 940-365-9460, $85-$130, www.iglobal.net/bisonhollow

Just 10 minutes east of Denton in Aubrey, Bison Hollow offers two rooms in a country log cabin. If you're traveling with horses, there is a barn available on the grounds with stalls and runs.

THE COUNTRY PLACE @ CROSSROADS
4000 Historic Lane, Aubrey,
☎ 940-365-9788, $85-$95
www.countryplacebb.com

The Country Place's three guest rooms each have a private bath and French doors that open out onto a wrap-around porch.

THE GUEST HOUSE
Route 1, Box 20, Aubrey, ☎ 940-440-2076, $65-$85

The hosts of the Guest House go beyond offering breakfast. They also offer private phones, fax service, horse stables, fishing guide service and custom order furniture.

ROADRUNNER FARM
14 Fincher Road, Argyle, ☎ 940/241-3089, $100
www.roadrunnerfarm.com

With wood-burning fireplaces, walking trails and an on-site antique shop, it's hard to go wrong. Throw in 32 acres of space and a swimming pool with spa and your recreation is complete. There's also lots of room for rehearsal dinners, parties, hayrides and small weddings.

RADISSON HOTEL DENTON
2211 N. I-35E, ☎ 940-565-8499, ☎ 800-333-3333,
$99-$189 (parlor room)

If you're looking for predictable, the Radisson has been providing consistent service for both the pleasure and business traveler for decades. They've got an outdoor pool, restaurant and bar.

Eagle Point Golf Course, an 18-hole course open sun-up to sundown, is on the premises and includes a full driving range. Hotel guests receive a discounted rate.

Garland

Garland's beginning was auspicious enough, mandated by law and representing the "middle-ground" in a feud between two local communities, Duck Creek and Embree, which no longer exist.

The Santa Fe Railroad chose Embree for its route; the Missouri, Kansas & Texas declined to share a union station and chose a more northern route, calling its new station Duck Creek. A fight over which town received the post office ensued.

Finally, Dallas County Judge Thomas A. Nash asked a visiting Congressman, Joe Abbott, to move the post office between the two towns. Abbott submitted a bill to Congress, forcing the two railroads to deliver to the new post office.

In 1887, the government not only moved the post office, but also named the new location Garland, in honor of then Attorney General A. H. Garland. Both Duck Creek and Embree were dissolved as they combined to form the new city of Garland.

Today Garland's population tops 200,000, making it the ninth largest city in Texas and the 91st largest in the nation. Its 57 square miles of city are located 15 miles northeast of downtown Dallas.

For additional information, visit or call the **Garland Convention and Visitors Bureau** (200 N. 4th, in the Landmark Museum, ☎ 972-205-2749).

Things to Do

LANDMARK MUSEUM
4th and State St., ☎ 972-205-2749,
Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4:30 pm

Garland's colorful history is chronicled here in the Landmark Museum, housed in an old Santa Fe depot. There's also a restored 1910 Pullman car on display.

LAKE RAY HUBBARD
I-30 East, ☎ 972-205-2750 (Garland Parks and Recreation)

Garland, which began as a farming community, sits on the western edge of Lake Ray Hubbard, a mecca for boating, sailing and fishing. The 22,000-acre lake, owned by the City of Dallas, includes several active marinas and facilities for boating, fishing and camping.

Marina Del Ray (2413 Rowlett Rd., ☎ 972-240-2020) is on the northwest tip of the lake. In addition to a ship store, bait shop and fishing dock, they keep a kiddie tank stocked with perch for aspiring fishermen and -women. They also rent fishing boats, barges and personal watercraft.

THE TEXAS QUEEN
☎ 972-771-0039

A 105-foot paddle wheeler offers cruises along the lake, taking off from Elgin Robertson Park. Each cruise, organized around a theme, from blues to country to a murder mystery, includes both dinner and dancing. Cruises begin at 7:30 pm and last two-three hours. They take place Friday and Saturday, with an occasional Wednesday and Thursday cruise during the busy summer months. Cost for the cruises ranges from $46 to $55 per person.

WOODLAND BASIN NATURE AREA
E. Miller Rd. and Centerville Rd.,
☎ 972-205-2750, 6 am-midnight

Fishing is the most popular activity here – you'll notice an influx of visitors early every morning and at dusk every evening. There's a place to launch canoes, a quarter-mile boardwalk and a half-mile hiking trail. Bring your own pole and bait, as there are no facilities here.

Restaurants

BABE'S
1456 Belt Line at Garland Rd, ☎ 972-496-1041

The menu is small, but that's just so the cooks can concentrate on many of their home-style favorites like pot roast and fried chicken. All of their sides are good too.

DESPERADOS
3443 Big Spring, ☎ 972-530-8886

The original is on Greenville Ave., but the food is just as good. The ceviche is fresh and delicious, as are the main plates, with offerings like steak Argentina and pollo San Lorenzo.

SOL'S NIETO FAJITAS
565 W. Oates, ☎ 972-681-7380

In addition to traditional Tex-Mex offerings like chicken fajitas, Sol's menu includes lots of vegetarian choices.

Accommodations

LA QUINTA INN
12721 I-635, ☎ 972-271-7581, $49-$60
La Quinta offers all of the basic amenities, along with free contintental breakfast, free local calls and free HBO. There's an outdoor pool and a Denny's next door.

Grand Prairie

During World War II, Grand Prairie, named for the expanse of grassland it was settled on in the late 1870s, attracted several large defense plants to its area. This influx triggered growth that, until that point, had been minimal.

While many of the defense companies have moved on, Grand Prairie has continued to grow. Today it is primarily a residential community conveniently located next to Arlington and just minutes from downtown Dallas.

Things to Do

PALACE OF WAX &
RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT
601 E. Safari Parkway, www.palaceofwax.com,
☎ 972-263-2391, Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm, Sat., & Sun., 10 am-6 pm

This is one of the biggest attractions in Grand Prairie. The two attractions are housed under one roof and are as entertaining as any theme park. And they're air-conditioned – not something to scoff at when you're looking for family entertainment during the hot summer months.

Galleries of life-like wax figures in the Palace of Wax can make even the most cynical visitors take a second glance. There are over 175 lifelike wax representations of figures ranging from Tom Hanks in his role of Forrest Gump to Mother Theresa.

The Ripley's exhibits include a piece of straw blown through a telephone pole during a Texas tornado and a series of shrunken heads. Another exhibit includes the Lord's Prayer written on a single grain of rice.

Visitors can purchase tickets for the Palace of Wax or Ripley's separately, $11 for adults and $7 per child. Or, if you choose to visit both attractions, there's a discount – $15 for adults and $10 for children.

LONE STAR PARK AT GRAND PRAIRIE
1000 Lone Star Parkway, www.lonestarpark.com,
☎ 972-263-RACE

One of Texas' newest horse racing tracks, this includes a seven-story, 280,000-square-foot Grandstand and a 36,000-square-foot simulcast facility.

Its state-of-the-art facility means it can stay open throughout most of the year. Lone Star broadcasts and takes wagers for horse races across the nation over 300 days in the year. Visitors can watch their horses on one of 400 television monitors.

Shopping

TRADERS VILLAGE
2602 Mayfield, l mile north of I-20,
☎ 972-647-2331, free parking: $2 per vehicle

Another popular stop, this is a weekend flea market that attracts upwards of 1,600 vendors and stretches across 106 acres. Thirty-two restaurants round out the activities that include more than just bargain hunting. More than 2.5 million visitors a year try their shopping luck at this bargain venue, which rounds out its offerings with kiddie rides and arcade games.

Over 200 RV sites are available, along with laundry facilities, a swimming pool, showers, picnic tables, barbecue and a playground.

Adventure

Joe Pool Lake

Located in south Grand Prairie and covering close to 7,500 acres, Joe Pool Lake is a work in progress. Trails and parks along its shores are continuously being developed. Two of the largest attractions are the Cedar Hill State Park and Lynn Creek Park. While Cedar Hill is run by the Texas Parks and Recreation Dept., Lynn Creek is run by the Trinity River Authority.

CEDAR HILL STATE PARK
Joe Pool Lake, FM 1382, south of I-20,
☎ 972-291-3900

Cedar Hill State Park's mountain biking trails are considered some of the premiere trails in the DFW Metroplex. Located on the eastern edge of Joe Pool Lake south of Grand Prairie, there's a little of everything here. Three trails make up the mixture: Talala Trail, 3 miles; DORBA (Dallas Off-Road Bike Association) Trail, 3.2 miles; and the Baggett Branch Loop, 10 miles. They've made it easy for you by posting signs that say "intermediate" for different loop options – believe the signs. There are some steep, tricky creek crossings and some tight tree sections. There are portions that take you past Joe Pool Lake – feel free to take a dip.

Though mountain bikers lay claim to a large portion of Cedar Hill Park, they aren't the only ones to enjoy its charms. An eight-mile hiking trail, picnic areas,

campsites and lake access round out the park's offerings.

LYNN CREEK PARK
☎ 817-467-4343, the Trinity River Authority

The Trinity River Authority runs not only Lynn Creek Park, but Loyd Park and Britton Park, all on the western shore of Joe Pool Lake.

There's also a golf course and driving range.

Together, these three parks provide 1,700 acres of park land suitable for overnight camping, day-use recreation and access to the lake for all types of water sports.

LYNN CREEK MARINA
5700 Lake Ridge Parkway, ☎ 817-640-4200

If you didn't bring your fishing gear, you can rent all you need at the Lynn Creek Marina. There are both indoor and outdoor fishing areas, in addition to boats for rent. The marina is also home to the Oasis Restaurant, which boasts live entertainment on the weekends.

Restaurants

EATUMUP CAFÉ
1610 Polo, ☎ 972-602-3456

Though their moniker borders on hokey, the folks at Eatumup are known for consistently turning out good home-style fare. The menu also includes Mexican and Italian food.

MARSALA
1618 Hwy 360, ☎ 972-988-1101

Elegant, with quality service, Marsala's menu includes both French and Italian classics. Classic guitar music adds to the ambiance.

Accommodations

RAMADA LIMITED GRAND PRAIRIE
402 E. Safari Parkway, ☎ 972-263-4421, $46-$72

One mile from the Palace of Wax and Ripley's Believe It or Not, two miles from the Ballpark in Arlington and three miles from Six Flags, the Ramada is convenient to all of the southern Metroplex. Amenities include complimentary breakfast, an outdoor pool and a fitness center.

AMERISUITES
1542 N. Highway 360, ☎ 972-988-6800, $89-$129
Free shuttle to and from the airport

Each room comes with a microwave, small refrigerator, wet bar and coffee maker. Just a mile north of Six Flags, Sumner is also convenient to all that Grand Prairie and Arlington have to offer. All of the suites have sleeper sofas in addition to the beds provided, making it an economical choice for families and groups.

Grapevine

Grapevine finds itself in a unique, enviable situation. It's small town goodness built around a strong historic district and ample recreation. And it sits right between Dallas and Fort Worth on the Metroplex's northern edge, with DFW Airport falling within its city limits.

It's truly a small town (30,000 residents), with big amenities literally on its doorstep. Established in 1844, a year before Texas attained statehood, Grapevine took its name from the naturally abundant tart mustang grape that flourished in the area. Over 75 historic structures have been preserved – a walking tour downtown, with its town square, white-washed gazebo and green sloping lawns, will take you back a few decades.

Stop by the **Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau** (One Liberty Park Plaza, 76051, ☎ 800-457-6338, or 817-410-8136, www.ci.grapevine.tx.us) for a map of all the downtown historical sites.

There is a **Southern Visitor Information Center** within the 1901 Cotton Belt Railroad Depot (701 South Main, 76051, ☎ 817-424-0561). In addition to providing maps and brochures on Grapevine, they can assist you with other Texas attractions. The visitor center is open seven days a week, while the Convention and Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

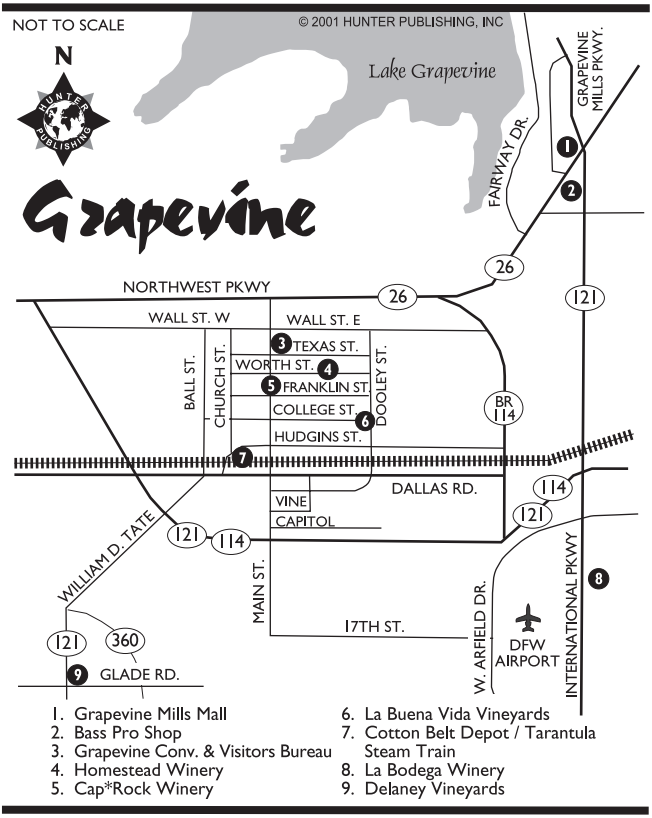
Things to Do

TARANTULA STEAM TRAIN
Cotton Belt Depot, Heritage Center Complex
707 South Main, 76051
☎ 800-952-5717 or 817-251-0066
www.tarantulatrain.com

Riding the Tarantula Steam Train to the Fort Worth Stockyards is not simply about *getting* somewhere. It's about how you got there. The Tarantula features a restored 1896 locomotive, century-old Victorian coaches and open-sided patio cars dating from the 1920s and restored to look much like those of the early 1900s. The 21-mile excursion lasts about 75 minutes each way, and you can enjoy snacks, soft drinks, wine and beer aboard the train.

During the week, the Tarantula leaves Grapevine at 10 am, arriving at the Stockyards by 11:15 am. The return trip leaves at 2 pm, arriving back in Grapevine at 3:15 pm. On Sundays, the trip shifts a little later, from 1 to 6 pm. Call ahead for the most current schedule and pricing.

The "Tarantula" moniker came from a proposed railroad map developed in 1873, which showed Fort Worth in the center of a circle with rail lines radiating out in all directions. After someone commented on the map's likeness to a tarantula, the name stuck. The map, created to attract railroads to the city, worked well. By 1900, nine railroads were operating lines through Fort Worth.



TEXAS STAR CLIPPER DINNER TRAIN
Cotton Belt Depot, Heritage Center Complex
707 South Main, 76051
☎ 800-952-5717, 817-251-0066 reservations (required)
www.tarantulatrain.com

The Texas Star Clipper provides upscale evening entertainment and fine dining aboard a restored train. The three-hour ride to neighboring Carrollton and back includes a chef-prepared five-course meal and

live entertainment. The train departs Fridays at 7:30 pm, Saturdays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 7 pm, and on Sundays at 5 pm. Boarding begins one hour prior to departure. Be prepared to choose your dinner – with choices like prime rib, salmon-en-croute and chicken bordeaux – when you make your reservation.

HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

You can pick up your self-guided tour map from both visitor centers (see introduction for locations). The tour will introduce you to over 40 historic buildings in downtown Grapevine, including a brief description of each building's original tenants. The structures, both commercial and residential, document architectural styles used throughout the century, and many are replicas of the originals.

Wineries

LA BODEGA WINERY & TASTING ROOM
Terminal 2E, Gate 6, DFW Airport
☎ 972-574-1440, Open Mon.-Sat., 7:30 am-10 pm, Sun., 11 am-10 pm

The first-ever winery and tasting room in a major airport shows true Texas hospitality by offering wines from select Texas vineyards in addition to their own label. They can ship their products internationally.

LA BUENA VIDA VINEYARDS
416 East College Street
☎ 817-481-9463
Open Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm., Sun., noon-5 pm

La Buena Vida prides itself on being Grapevine's first winery and tasting room and Texas' oldest continuous producer of champagne. Its vineyard produces a Cabernet Sauvignon, Chenin Blanc, Johannesburg

Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Texas Blush, Mead and Texas Vintage Port. Their white Merlot remains a visitor favorite. Bring a picnic lunch during the mild months to dine beneath the wysteria and vine-covered arbor. The downtown location includes a winery museum, fountains, an herb garden and native Texas gardens. Call to make an appointment to tour the actual vineyards in Springtown.

DELANEY VINEYARDS
2000 Champagne Blvd, Hwy 121 at Glade Rd
☎ 817-481-5668
Open Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, tours and tastings noon to 4 pm

Delaney Vineyards, which planted its roots in 1992, transports visitors to 18th-century France in its 10-acre vineyard and formal garden. The classic architecture and landscaping will round out an afternoon spent strolling the grounds and sipping wine. The formal tour leaves on the hour from noon to 4 pm. Tastings are every half-hour. During the week tours and tastings are much more casual. You don't have to take the tour to participate in the wine tastings. Among their offerings are a Pinot Noir, a Chardonnay and a Cabernet Franc.

HOMESTEAD WINERY & TASTING ROOM
211 East Worth St.
☎ 817-251-9463
Open Wed.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm, Sun., 1-5:30 pm

Located in a charming historic home right off Main Street, Homestead wines enjoys a solid reputation for its Muscat Canelli, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. Though the actual winery is in Ivanhoe, near the Red River, the tasting room's pleasant patio and backyard area are lush. It is used frequently for special events like wedding showers and receptions.

CAP*ROCK WINERY AND TASTING ROOM
409 South Main Street
☎ 817-329-WINE (9463)

Grapevine's newest addition to the winery list, the tasting room includes a roomy bar where patrons can order two-ounce samples of Cap*Rock's 14 different flavors of wine. Its Merlot has garnered praise as the "Best Red in Texas."

Museums & Galleries

GRAPEVINE HERITAGE CENTER COMPLEX
701 South Main, 76051, ☎ 817-410-8136

Interest in restoring the Cotton Belt Railroad Depot, built in 1901 and spared the wrecking ball in 1973, sparked a wave of historical preservation efforts by Grapevine citizens. The townspeople were so involved in the depot resurrection that they went on to form the Grapevine Heritage Foundation and the Grapevine Historical Society, which have both been integral to preservation of the entire town.

Today the Cotton Belt Depot is the Heritage Centers' centerpiece and home of the Grapevine Historical Museum. The museum houses everything from dinosaur tracks to century-old artifacts and photographs.

One of the center's most popular attractions is the **Tarantula Steam Train**, a throw-back to the days of traveling by rail (See page 156 for complete information).

Working artisans, including woodcarvers and quilters, sell their goods in the **Section Foreman's House**, one of several buildings on the grounds. The **Bragg Tenant Farmers' House**, a **blacksmith**

shop and a 1930s **windmill** complete the heritage grounds.

From late May to mid-November on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the **Grapevine Farmers' Market** offers North Texas fruits and vegetables to lucky visitors.

Shopping

OUTDOOR WORLD
2501 Bass Pro Drive, near the intersection of Hwy. 114 and Hwy. 97
☎ 972-724-2018, ☎ 800-BASS-PRO,
www.outdoor-world.com

Outdoor World fills every last crevice of this 200,000-square-foot complex. For fishermen and women they offer line winding, custom rigging, casting demonstrations and instruction, fly-tying demos, and complete outfitting. Archers can set-up and tune their bows and practice in the indoor range. Hunters can test out their wares in the pistol range and rifle tube. Golfers can practice both their short and long game on the indoor putting green and driving range. They sell equpment for all of these sports, in addition to accessories for camping and boating, including the boats themselves.

You'll develop a grand appetite just walking the store's perimeter. A stop at **Big Buck Brewery & Steakhouse** will keep you going. And if you don't feel like leaving, you can stay the night. **Embassy Suites** (☎ 972-724-2600) has opened an on-site hotel, complete with swimming pool and recreation facilities. Did we mention the 30,000-gallon aquarium with a waterfall?

If you call from DFW Airport, they will shuttle you directly to the store.

GRAPEVINE MILLS
3000 Grapevine Mills Parkway (FM 2499), at Hwy.121
☎ 888-645-5748, 972-724-4900,
www.grapevinemills.com

An outlet mall of gigantic proportions, Grapevine Mills has been drawing a crowd since it opened in 1998. Part of the Mills network, which includes other notable mega-malls like Potomac Mills near Washington DC and Sawgrass Mills in Fort Lauderdale, the mall has become one of the town's centerpieces, attracting over 15 million shoppers annually. Extending over the equivalent of 34 football fields, the mall hosts such marquee names as Bed, Bath & Beyond, Books-A-Million, Burlington Coat Factory, GameWorks, JCPenney Outlet Store, Marshalls, Off 5th-Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet, Off Rodeo Dr., Old Navy, The Sports Authority and Virgin Megastore. Over 200 specialty stores round out the line-up.

Of the restaurant offerings, the **Rainforest Café** (see restaurants for complete information) is perhaps the most eclectic, but not to be outdone by **Dick Clark's American Bandstand Grill** or **Dickey's Barbeque**, a local production. A 30-screen theater rounds out the entertainment.

Gray Line (☎ 972-263-0294) offers bus service from Dallas hotels Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. **SuperShuttle** provides transportation from DFW Airport. ☎ 817-329-3846 for information and rates.

Main Street

Historic Main Street is lined with unique shops, with an emphasis on antiques, jewelry and art. Those listed represent just a slice of what Grapevine has to offer.

A PLACE IN TIME
210 North Main, 76051, ☎ 817-329-0622

This antique mecca houses over 100 booths, filled with an eclectic mixture of antiques and collectibles. The **Two-Ten Café** is open Tuesday through Saturday, but there's usually a delicious treat, like brownies or cookies, for sale at the front counter during all hours.

BRITISH EMPORIUM
130 N. Main, 76051, ☎ 817-421-2311

Two British gals, Alexandra Evans and Sheela Kadam, started the British Emporium almost a decade ago. Homesick for items they couldn't find in the United States, the two created a British wonderland that has gone through three expansions. In addition to boasting the largest selection of tea in the Metroplex, they carry anything British (or South African, by popular demand). Inventory includes bulk tea, British comedy videos, teapots, scones, jams, greeting cards, Cadbury's chocolates, and much more.

CIRCLE R RANCH WEAR
406 S. Main, ☎ 817-488-2228

When proprietor Don Reim decided to consolidate his six Western wear stores and slow down a bit in Grapevine, he created both a store and a museum. The unusual Western clothing is for sale in Reim's "personal museum," decorated with memorabilia and antiques he has collected throughout the years.

GRAPEVINE DOLL SHOP
413 S. Main, 76051, ☎ 817-488-2226

There's over $1 million worth of dolls stored in this shop, a tribute to the quality and extent of the shop's collection. The selection includes both porcelain and collectibles, as well as play dolls. Half of their collection comes from Germany.

OFF THE VINE
324 South Main, ☎ 817-421-1091,
www.offthevinetexas.com

Off the Vine takes advantage of Grapevine's natural assets, offering all of the local vintages. In all, the store's wine selection tops 200 and includes an assortment of gifts and gourmet foods, from books to wine racks to bottle stoppers and wine jellies.

PUEBLO CONNECTION
334 S. Main, ☎ 817-481-7724

For over a decade Pueblo Connection has been earning a solid reputation in Grapevine, selling quality work at reasonable prices. You'll find Southwestern jewelry, furniture, artwork and other odds-and-ends.

Adventure

LAKE GRAPEVINE
Northeast on TX 26, 1 mile north of Grapevine
☎ 817-481-4541, http://155.84.88.67/grapevine

Considered the fourth busiest lake in Texas, Lake Grapevine attracts more than four million visitors a year. The lake's expansive shoreline has become a boating and fishing favorite for North Texans. Included in the extensive park system are public tennis courts, baseball and softball diamonds, football and soccer fields, jogging and biking trails, a swimming pool, playgrounds and picnic facilities.

Fishermen are rewarded with black bass, catfish, crappie or white bass. Some of the best areas to fish are near the dam (where it is aerated), at Twin Coves and near the stumps in Marshall Creek. Every so often, dead Christmas trees are put in the water to provide fish shelters – the park office can give you a map detailing the most current conditions. The lake also

offers public hunting and overnight camping facilities.

By several accounts, the **Northshore Trail**, which runs along the northern shore of the lake, is one of the most used bike trails in the entire Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex. Stretching west from Rock Ledge Park through Twin Coves Park, it's almost a 20-mile round-trip, just over nine miles each way. The eastern portion is less technical and good for intermediate and novice mountain bikers. The western edge is more of a challenge, with several "rock gardens" to add spice to your ride.

There are trailheads in Rock Ledge, Murrell and Twin Coves parks.

Knob Hills Trail, on the west end of the lake, traverses prairie and bottomland of Denton Creek. Though it's less rocky than Northshore, it's still a challenge. Make sure to dodge the cacti and the occasional lost steer. Spring's wildflower display along the trail is memorable.

Off-road vehicles are welcome on **Marshall Creek Park's** 250 acres of challenging terrain. Park engineers have gone out of their way to provide a variety of trail conditions, including some extremely steep hills. They recommend extreme caution.

Lake Grapevine offers a variety of options to equestrians who bring their own **horses**. They have also instituted a strict park rule: no horses on bike trails, no bikes on horse trails. The **Walnut Grove** horse trail, which follows the southwestern edge of the lake, is divided into an upper woodland trail and a lower shoreline trail. There are no facilities on the 10-mile trail, but you can water your horse in Lake Grapevine.

Cross Timber and **Rocky Point** are the other two horse options. (All of these trails are also open to pe-

destrian traffic.) Cross Timbers winds five miles along the lake's northwestern edge through a brilliant array of wildflowers (in the spring and summer) and birds. Rocky Point is shorter (three miles), but takes riders along the bluffs overlooking the lake.

SCOTT'S LANDING MARINA
2500 Park Road One, Oakgrove Park,
☎ 817-481-4549

Year-round home to hundreds of boats on Lake Grapevine, the marina also offers pontoon, runabout and waverunner rentals. There are also several restaurant choices, ranging from sandwiches to formal lakeside dining.

GRAPEVINE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE
3800 Fairway Drive, ☎ 817-410-3377

If you're a golfer, you might want to consider an extended stay in Grapvine. The municipal course is just one of three championship public golf courses in the small town and was designed by the legendary Byron Nelson. They've recently added nine holes and are revamping the existing 18 so they'll have a full 27 holes. It books up fast – they take reservations three days in advance for foursomes.

Green fees are relatively cheap – $20 and under.

THE HYATT BEAR CREEK GOLF & RACQUET CLUB
3500 Bear Creek Ct, in DFW Airport, ☎ 972-615-6800

Bear Creek offers two 18-hole courses over 335 acres of rolling hills. It's a little bit pricier than the municipal course, just under $100 on weekends. Over 75,000 rounds of golf are played at Bear Creek annually. There's a teaching pro on staff and reservations can be made five days in advance.

With the Kids

A SCOOP IN TIME
412 S. Main Street, 76051
☎ 817-421-6393, Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm,
Sun., 1-5 pm

You can use your kids as an excuse to visit this old-fashioned soda fountain and ice cream parlor. They still make ice cream sodas and their shakes are delectable.

After Dark

THE GRAPEVINE OPRY
308 S. Main, the Palace Theater, 76051
☎ 817-481-8733

The Grapevine Opry has long been an anomaly, featuring talents like Willie Nelson and the Judds when they were still unknown. The famous revisit their old stomping ground on occasion. Shows take place every Saturday night at 7:30 pm. Every fourth Friday of the month the Opry hosts country gospel.

Calendar of Events

April

GRAPEVINE NEW VINTAGE
WINE & ART FESTIVAL

Grapevine pays tribute to the flowering of the vine, featuring educational seminars, wine tastings, fine art expositions and live music. There's a gourmet brunch with award-winning chefs from across the Metroplex and around the world. Held annually the third weekend in April.

May

MAIN STREET DAYS

One of the largest festivals in the state, dedicated to the celebration of rural heritage, Main Street Days commemorates Grapevine's pioneering heritage with continuous family entertainment. Held annually the third weekend in May.

September

GRAPEFEST

Grapefest is the state's oldest and largest wine festival and annually attracts upward of 80,000 visitors. The three-day celebration honors 28 Texas wineries and vineyards, five of which are located in Grapevine. Held annually the second full weekend in September.

Restaurants

ESPARZA'S
124 E. Worth
☎ 817-481-4668

There's a second location (Esparza's Too) at 1212 William D. Tate, ☎ 817-481-6570.

Founded in 1985 by Johnny Esparza and Steve Brown, Esparza's serves authentic Mexican food from family recipes generations old. Start with the ratones (jalapenos stuffed with chicken and then deep fried), move on to their famous fajitas and end with a praline. All the while you'll enjoy potent margaritas made from the owner's secret recipe. On weekends you'll wait as much as an hour, but it's worth it.

JOE'S CRAB SHACK
201 Hwy 114 West
☎ 817-251-1515

It's a chain, but it's also festive and fun, with many seafood choices. You can buy shrimp, oysters and crabs by the pound. It can get messy.

RAINFOREST CAFÉ
Grapevine Mills Mall
☎ 972-539-5001, www.rainforestcafe.com

You can't help smiling when you enter this colossal affair.

OK, it's a chain. But from the time you check in at the elephant, the dining theme park wows eaters with its over-the-top creations, which include cascading waterfalls, super-imposed animal noises, giant salt aquariums teeming with life and a fiberoptic starscape. After eating (or while you're waiting), browse the retail store for souvenirs. It's best to call ahead for reservations as families fill the café most evenings and weekends.

RAVIOLI'S
120 E. Worth St., 76051
☎ 817-488-1181

The menu choices at Ravioli's include a lot more than ravioli. There's tortellini, fettucine, linguine and canneloni, among others. Two entrées stand out: the basta pasta ($10), a make-your-own pasta with six choices of noodles and six choices of sauce, and the dinner for two ($34), a combination of sautéed veal, chicken, shrimp, sliced mushrooms and special white wine sauce. Daily specials usually include fresh seafood of the day.

WILDFLOWER BREAD COMPANY
316 South Main, 76051
☎ 817-488-5223

A family-owned retail bakery specializing in traditional rustic breads baked in a stone oven, the Wild-

flower is also a great place for a snack while strolling Main Street. Scones, cookies, streusel, sweet breads and sinfully good pies are all baked daily.

WILLHOITE'S
432 S Main Street, 76051
☎ 817-481-7511

The building that now serves up Texas-sized buffet choices began as a dry goods store and spent the majority of its life as the town's automotive garage. Steaks and burgers are now the norm, with the buffet being the restaurant's main draw. There are also several television sets and a big screen TV for sports watching, pool tables and live music (classic rock/country) Tuesday through Saturday nights.

Accommodations

ALLEN'S LIBERTY HOUSE
205 E. College, 76051
☎ 817-251-9201, www.allenslibertyhouse.com, $90-$175

Having been in the Allen family since the Republic of Texas was created, this house has been carefully maintained and cared for. Its long verandah is perfect for sipping lemonade. There are four rooms upstairs to choose from, one of which has a private balcony.

HYATT REGENCY DFW
International Parkway inside DFW Airport
☎ 800-233-1234 or 972-453-1234, www.hyatt.com, $189-$259 week, $119-$209 weekend

Everything you could ask for, plus a complimentary workout facility, racquetball courts, four restaurants and 24-hour airport transportation. Two 18-hole golf

courses are just five minutes away at Bear Creek Golf and Racquet Club.

DFW LAKES HILTON
1800 Hwy 26E, 76051
☎ 800-645-1019, 800-445-8667(worldwide),
$79-$199

Decked out with all amenities on 40 wooded acres. Includes add-ons like fishing in a private lake and a jogging trail. Full workout facilities, indoor and outdoor pools, and two restaurants, one of which is open for dinner only.

EMBASSY SUITES (OUTDOOR WORLD)
2401 Bass Pro Drive, 76051
☎ 800/EMBASSY, ☎ 972-724-2600

If shopping 'til you drop is part of your game, take advantage of this Embassy Suites embedded into Outdoor World and just across the highway from Grapevine Mills Outlet Mall. In addition, you'll enjoy all the standard Embassy Suites accommodations. All the rooms are suites complete with microwave, refrigerator and sitting room. Breakfast is complimentary and during the week you can enjoy cocktails at no charge between 5 and 7 pm.

THE TERRACES HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
2200 W. Airfield, DFW Airport, 75261
☎ 972-453-0600, $90-$140

Facilities include fitness equipment, workout area, basketball, racquetball courts, softball field and outdoor tennis courts. Joggers and walkers will enjoy the little lake with a trail encircling it on their property. There's a shuttle to the hotel from the airport, and the hotel will provide free transportation around Grapevine.

Irving

The two men that settled Irving, J.O. Shulze and Otis Brown, were big fans of author Washington Irving. So it made sense that they named their brainchild for him. After buying up a large chunk of land, including a watermelon farm, in the early 1900s and then donating a portion of it to the railroads, Shulze and Brown sold town lots for $50 each.

Their town grew slowly but steadily, always in the shadow of Dallas, just to the southeast. In 1950 there were still just over 2,500 residents. But by the 1970s Irving hit its stride and burgeoned. Texas Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, opened in 1971 and 1973 saw the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport land on the city's western door. Now Irving boasts more than 150,000 residents.

Things to Do

MUSTANGS OF LAS COLINAS
Williams Square Plaza, O'Connor Road north of Highway 114

Dallas is famous for many things: JFK's assassination, Southfork and the Dallas Cowboys. The Mustangs of Las Colinas could be next on that list, representing the Metroplex in pictorials around the world. If you've seen pictures of Dallas, you've seen the breathtaking mustangs.

The nine larger-than-life bronze mustangs, created by African wildlife artist Robert Glen, are the largest equestrian sculpture in the world.

Across the plaza you'll find the **Mustang Sculpture Exhibit** (☎ 972-869-9047, Tues-Sat., 10 a.m-6 pm), which includes a short film on the creation of the sculpture.

LAS COLINAS

Las Colinas is considered one of the premiere planned communities in the nation. Designers filled the 12,000-acre site with parks, green belts, luxury housing, retail shops and everything else to make this city-within-a-city self-sufficient.

There are several ways to see the Urban Center, located in the southeast portion of the Las Colinas. The Mandalay Canal is lined with trees, cobbled walkways, restaurants and shops. Las Colinas also relies on a monorail system to whisk residents around a five-mile track.

IRVING ARTS CENTER

3333 N. MacArthur, ☎ 972-252-7558,
www.irving.net/iac

This arts complex is a virtual clearinghouse for arts in Irving, with more than 20 arts and cultural organizations housed here. The complex includes two galleries, the Main Gallery and the New Talent Gallery, which show both traditional and contemporary work. The galleries are open Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm, Sat., 10 am-5 pm and Sun., 1-5 pm.

The Center also offers theater and concert programs throughout the year at the 712-seat Carpenter Hall and 256-seat Dupree Theater.

Sports

DALLAS COWBOYS, TEXAS STADIUM
2401 E Airport Freeway off TX 183, ☎ 972-785-5000 for ticket and schedule information

The big attraction here, of course, are the Dallas Cowboys, the nation's most loved and hated professional sports team. The image of Tom Landry beneath his stoic hat and demeanor is indelibly etched into every fan's mind.

Even if you don't follow football, it would be hard not to follow the rises and falls of a team that is somehow perpetually making news. Some of the greatest football moments have occurred in Texas Stadium, the 64,000-seat home of the Cowboys.

Tours of the stadium are given each day, depending on planned events. In 45 minutes you'll go through the locker rooms, the players' tunnel, the press box, the Stadium Club and several private suites. Tours leave on the hour from the Pro Shop at Gate 8, running from 10 am to 3 pm, Mon.-Sat., and 11 am-3 pm on Sunday.

For information on the tours, ☎ 972-785-4787. Call the Pro Shop (☎ 972-785-4780) to make sure tours are taking place on the day you plan to attend. Tours are not given on some days if there are special events at the stadium and they are never given on game day or 24 hours prior to a home game.

BYRON NELSON GOLF CLASSIC
4150 N MacArthur Blvd, Las Colinas,
☎ 214-742-3896 for ticket information

The Byron Nelson Golf Classic, a popular PGA stop, is played annually in Irving at the Four Seasons Resort and Club. Usually occurring the first or second week

in May, it pays tribute to Byron Nelson, a professional golfer born in neighboring Fort Worth. He twice won the Masters (1937 and 1942) and won 11 consecutive tournaments on his way to winning 19 in 1945.

With the Kids

MOVIE STUDIOS AT LAS COLINAS
6301 N. O'Connor Rd., Dallas Communications Complex, ☎ 972-869-FILM,
www.studiosatlascolinas.com

Texas' own slice of Hollywood is encased at the Movie Studios at Las Colinas, a motion picture and television production center. Among the movies produced here are *Robocop, Problem Child, JFK* and *Leap of Faith*. A tour of the facilities showcases sets, props and other movie memorabilia.

If you have a group of 15 or more, call ahead for special reservations.

Tours last 1½ hours and begin seven days a week at 12:30, 2:30 and 4 pm. On Saturday, there is an additional tour at 10:30 am.

You'll also receive a ticket to the **National Museum of Communications**, one of the most extensive collections of vintage radios, televisions, phonographs and communications memorabilia in the world. Included in the exhibits are the microphone used by Walter Cronkite on his final newscast and Charlie Chaplin's movie camera.

The movie studios are part of the Dallas Communications Complex, a 125-acre development that serves as a center for media, advertising and communications.

Adventure

CAMPION TRAILS
O'Conner Rd., north of Spur 348 in front of Las Colinas City Service Center,
☎ 972-721-2501 (Irving Parks and Recreation)

Miles of native forest and pristine river abundant with wildlife and flora are found along the banks of the Elm and West forks of the Trinity River. There are six miles of greenbelt suitable for hiking, jogging, cycling and walking. There are also areas for horseback riding. Parking and access to the trail is from the Las Colinas City Service Center.

The master plan for the Greenbelt calls for 22 miles of trail and the city is slowly working toward that goal.

HERITAGE PARK
Main Street at Second Street, ☎ 972-721-2655.

Located in the heart of the heritage district, the park contains a number of historic relics, including the Caster Cabin, one of Irving's original cabins, built in 1887 by Henry Caster. The park also includes Irving's original water tower, a windmill original to the area, a depot symbolizing the Rock Island Depot built in 1903, Irving's first library and a gazebo.

Restaurants

CAFE CIPRIANI
220 E Las Colinas Blvd, ☎ 972-869-0713

Celebrities are often spotted at this bastion of fine Italian dining. It's expensive, but that's the price you pay for exquisite food. You can call ahead for reservations. Closed Sunday.

COOL RIVER CAFÉ
1045 Hidden Ridge, NE corner of MacArthur & Las Colinas Blvds., ☎ 972-871-8881

A popular spot; expect to wait for a table.

Upscale, with a gurgling, man-made creek splitting the dining area, Cool River serves items like Shiner Bock rib-eye and chicken-fried venison. There's also a wide wine selection and cigar choices.

VIA REAL GOURMET MEXICAN RESTAURANT
4020 N. MacArthur, ☎ 972-650-9001

They mix traditional Mexican food with American and Southwestern flavors, producing entrées like squash enchiladas, and bacon-wrapped sea scallops. The classy atmosphere tops off the experience.

Accommodations

FOUR SEASONS RESORT AND CLUB
4150 N MacArthur Blvd, 75038,
☎ 800-332-3442 or 972-717-0700,
www.fourseasons.com, $305-$395

Two full golf courses spread out along its 400 acres, including the Tournament Players Course that hosts the Byron Nelson Classic PGA tour event. This is the kind of hotel where a thick, white terry robe is waiting for you and where they shine your shoes while you sleep. Highlights include professional golf and tennis instruction, beauty salon, airline ticketing, full service spa, squash courts and four pools. Fifty of the rooms are intimately grouped in private villas, and many have private balconies that look out over the golf course.

HARVEY HOTEL DFW AIRPORT
4545 W Carpenter Freeway, 75063,
☎ 800-922-9222, 972-929-4500, $139-$159 week,
$79-$89 weekends, +$20 for suites

The Harvey is just across the highway from DFW Airport on the north end.

The rooftop indoor/outdoor pool tops off this luxury stop that includes two restaurants, a work-out room and over 30,000 square feet of banquet space.

OMNI MANDALAY AT LAS COLINAS
221 E Las Colinas Blvd, 75039, ☎ 800-843-6664 or
972-556-0800, $219 week, $109 weekends

Set in the heart of the Las Colinas Complex, adjacent to the Mandalay Canal, it is lush luxury. There's a heated pool, 24-hour room service, an on-site masseuse, a restaurant and two lounges.

Mesquite

The name Mesquite fits well with some of the old-fashion, rustic events that take place here. But the town originally took its name from the plot of land it was settled on in 1873 – the Mesquite League.

In the 50s, Mesquite was a quaint town of 1,700, with city limits of one square mile. By the 60s it had expanded to 27,000 citizens and 21 square miles. The growth of Dallas and its highway infrastructure, which included I-20, I-30 and Loop 635, directly paralleled Mesquite's expansion.

Also, Mesquite earned something of national reputation for rodeo in 1958, when the first professional rodeo season kicked off in the Mesquite Rodeo Arena. The rodeo is televised nationwide and more than 300,000 fans show up each season.

There are more than 120,000 Mesquite residents today.

Stop by the **Mesquite Visitors' Bureau** (617 North Ebrite, ☎ 972-285-0211, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5 pm) for brochures and advice on area attractions.

Things to Do

MESQUITE CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO
1818 Rodeo Dr., Mesquite Arena,
Www.mesquiterodeo.com,
☎ 972-285-8777 or 800-833-9339

Usually, the rodeo *comes* to town, along with a livestock show, for one or two special weeks. In Mesquite the rodeo stays in town, making every weekend from April through the first week of October special.

When it first opened in 1958, attendance was modest. Today more than 300,000 fans make the trip each season to see bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing, bareback riding, team roping and everything else.

There's a barbecue pavilion for the hungry and pony rides and a petting zoo for the kids.

The rodeo begins at 7:30 pm every Friday and Saturday night from April to the beginning of October. However, the pony rides, barbecue pavilion and gift shop open at 6 pm on those days.

You can purchase general admission tickets at the gate, or call ahead for reserved seating.

SAMUELL FARM
100 E. Highway 80, ☎ 972-670-7866,
Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm

A local physician, Dr. W.W. Samuell, acquired this 350-acre parcel of land long ago as repayment for a debt. When he died, he gave the land to Dallas, with specific instructions to make it a farm park.

Walkers can explore over four miles of trails and there are camping areas.

If you bring your own fishing gear, you'll have your choice of five stocked fishing ponds. There are also cows, sheep, goats and pigs to observe and pet.

Also, horse and pony rides are available. The equestrian area is open Tues.-Sat., 9 am-5 pm, and Sun., noon-5 pm. Reservations are highly recommended (☎ 972-288-6773).

LIGHT CRUST DOUGHBOYS MUSEUM
105 Broad St., ☎ 972-285-5441

Photographs, instruments, books, recordings and many wardrobe items are included in this museum, dedicated solely to preserving the spirit of the Light Crust Doughboys, one of Texas' most historic bands.

As the world's longest-running country band, the Doughboys have seen their share of the spotlight. Country crooner Bob Wills convinced Burris Mill and Elevator Co. to sponsor his band on a regular radio show. In return, they would advertise the mills light crust flour – thus the name.

For a while the group was led by W.L. "Pappy" O'Daniel. He quit the band to go into politics, eventually becoming governor of Texas and then a US Senator. The Doughboys played all of Pappy's events, no doubt.

The current rendition of the Doughboys is still alive and winning awards today, nominated for Grammys in 1998 and 1999.

DEVIL'S BOWL SPEEDWAY
1711 Lawson Rd., Mesquite, www.devilsbowl.com,
☎ 972-222-2421

For close to three decades, this family-owned dirt racetrack has been hosting various races, including stock cars, USA Sprints, USA Modifieds and Late Models. Most events are on Saturday, but occasionally will be held on Friday or Sunday. Call for current information.

Restaurants

MAMA'S DAUGHTERS' DINER
2015 North Galloway, ☎ *972-289-6262*

They've been doing home cooking for over 35 years with dishes that include meatloaf, chicken & dumplings, mashed potatoes, chicken fried steak, turnip greens, buttered corn and a host of fresh desserts.

RAZZOO'S CAJUN CAFÉ
3712 Towne Crossing Blvd., ☎ 972-686-9100

Razzoo's blends Cajun creole with Texas. Louisiana-inspired appetizers include gumbo ("gumbaux," according to Razzoo's), boudin, fried gator tail, and the popular "Rat-Toes," fried jalapenos stuffed with crab and shrimp. Entreés range from the lighter po' boy sandwiches to Texafied Cajun dishes (like Cajun fried steak) to pure Cajun. The Chicken Tchoupitoulas is a local favorite. Also for four regular folks (which equals two Cajuns), try out the Jaws Seafood Platter, an assortment including gator tails, fried shrimp, oysters, catfish tenders and crawdaddy tails.

There's also a Razzoo's in Fort Worth at 318 Main Street.

Accommodations

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
2300 Hwy. 67, ☎ 972-681-3300, 800-321-2211,
$69-$99

You can walk to the rodeo arena from this hotel, which includes standard amenities, an outdoor heated pool, a fitness room and a business center.

Outside the Metroplex

Canton

Three weekends a month Canton is a sleepy bastion of small-town feel-good with just over 3,400 permanent residents. But on the fourth weekend preceding the first Monday of every month, roughly 200,000 professional and amateur shoppers flock to town for what is billed as the largest open-air flea market in the nation and perhaps even the world.

The town's trading days began humbly after the town was laid out in 1849. The area residents gathered on the first Monday of the month (when the district judge was in town) to hear court. Court day was also the day – Hoss Monday – when stray horses were auctioned off, attracting farmers from all over who were interested in trading their own wares and livestock. Historians note that Hoss Monday developed much more quickly than Canton, drawing more and more bargain hunters to its town square.

It gradually took on a more competitive nature, with vendors beginning to fetch customers the day before First Monday. Community citizens did not appreciate the market trespassing into the Lord's Day and soon the mega-event was moved to encompass the entire weekend prior to First Monday. Today the 150-acre affair starts the deal-making late Thursday night and

by Sunday afternoon most of the vendors are packed up and gone.

With the success of First Monday Trade Days, several other private ventures have set up grounds of their own. You'll want to check out all of the facilities.

For more information on Canton, call the local **Chamber of Commerce**, ☎ 903-567-2991, www.cantontx.com.

Things to Do

FIRST MONDAY TRADE DAYS
PO Box 245, Canton, 75103,
www.firstmondaycanton.com, ☎ 903-567-6556

Today, First Mondays include more than 6,000 independent trinket, antique and art dealers. They boast that if you can't find it here, it probably doesn't exist. Trade days begin on Thursday and end Sunday on the weekend before the first Monday of the month.

Roads are clogged during the festivities and hotels are booked to capacity, so book a room for yourself before you come.

Take your time. Stay a few days.

There's no way to see the entire 300-acre complex of shops – unless you use your visit as an exercise in speed-walking rather than shopping.

If you're shopping specifically for antiques, most of them are located in the Civic Center, where it is climate-controlled.

BUFFALO VILLAGE
202 N. Buffalo St., Canton, 75103,
www.buffalovillage.com, ☎ 903-567-2434 or 972-937-0940

Because First Monday has been so successful, several other ventures now cater to traveling shoppers during

the trade days. Buffalo Village is one such establishment. Most of its shops are air-conditioned and heated. Products range from quilts to candles to hand-painted t-shirts and pillows. Buffalo Village, with room for just over 30 vendors, is very small relative to the original Trade Days. But, as it's located just around the corner from the main gate, shoppers should wander by and see what they have to offer.

OLD MILL MARKETPLACE
542 Highway 64 East, Canton, 75103, www.oldmillmarketplace.com, 903-567-5445

Another Trade Days addition, Old Mill Marketplace has space for over 700 vendors, which typically offer everything under the sun. Within the marketplace, you'll find the Mountain and the Village.

The Mountain is a recreated pioneer town with over 400 shops, donkey rides, shoot-outs, and entertainment for the entire family. Many vendors here dress in period clothes. **The Village** offers Texas Hill Country-style front porches and a more laid-back experience.

Restaurants

DAIRY PALACE
2301 Trade Days Blvd., ☎ 903-567-6551

The Dairy Palace doesn't technically qualify as "restaurant." But its fast-food menu belies its worth to this community. There are great things here, of course, like its devotion to Blue Bell Ice Cream (a Texas favorite) and its adherence to burger protocol. However, what most remember about the Dairy Palace it that it is the place to meet. Since it is near impossible to meet on the Trade Day's grounds, hundreds of people make the Palace their convenient

stop. There's always a crowd. They're open seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

GENYA'S KITCHEN
1900 N. Trade Days Blvd., ☎ 903-567-2606

The fare here is standard American: burgers, chicken sandwiches, pork chops and steaks. Try the chicken fried steak. It seems to be the most popular item on the menu.

JEWEL'S FAMILY RESTAURANT
17260 I-20, intersection of I-20 and Hwy 19,
☎ 903-567-4440

A local favorite known for its flame-broiled steaks, Jewel's menu knows no boundaries. They serve Mexican food, seafood, steak and lots of items that fall in-between.

Accommodations

BAILITEAL FARM BED & BREAKFAST
201 Private Road 5819, 12 miles NE of Canton in Grand Saline, ☎ 800-875-4874 or 903/962-4475, $50-$75

With room for up to 30 guests, the BailiTeal Farm believes it's the little extras that make it stand apart: like the stocked pond where guests can fish, the front porch swing, the swimming pool and the volleyball court. White picket fences adorn the grounds, which are a short trip away from the Trade Day's grounds.

BED AND BREAKFAST COUNTRY STYLE
PO Box 1101, 903-567-2899, prices vary

They'll try to match your needs to one of many bed & breakfasts in the Canton area. They've been in the business for more than a decade.

BUFFALO GIRLS HOTEL
5 Marsh Lane, on the Mountain
at Old Mill Marketplace, ☎ 903-567-STAY,
www.buffalogirlshotel.com

The doors will probably creak here, but that's the way the owners want it. They've created an old-time abode that becomes part of the scenery in the Mountain's pioneer town. You can watch gunfights from your balcony and eat with gunfighters in the downstairs café. It's right in the middle of the festivities, so if you're looking for solitude you should either pick a different place or pick a weekend that is not during First Monday Trade Days.

CANTON SQUARE BED & BREAKFAST
133 S. Buffalo St., Canton, 75103, ☎ 903-567-6195
or 800-704-8769

This fully restored 1893 building offers five rooms for visitors and is just one block from the Trade Days fairgrounds. They offer a country-style breakfast each morning.

DODGE CITY B&B AND CONFERENCE CENTER
578 W. Dallas #8, Canton, 75103, ☎ 903-567-6167
or 877-567-6167, $60-$80

Dodge City is nestled into the Mountain in Old Mill Marketplace. They offer both dormitory-style accommodations and cabins for two. Shopping is literally out the front door, as are gardens, ponds and walking trails. Part of Dodge City's aim is to bring its guests back in time. In keeping with that tradition, their rooms are devoid of phones and televisions.

They are also fashioning themselves into a year-round conference center, attracting groups throughout the year.

Open year-round, they will host wedding parties and special occasions.

SWEET CREEK FARMS
10 miles south of Canton off Hwy 19,
☎ 888-EAST-TEX, $85-$125

They rent out two private cabins, each with hot tub, and are open year-round.

Granbury

The theory that great things come in small packages holds true in Granbury, 35 miles southwest of Fort Worth. They've been able to preserve their small town with the convenience of big town amenities just up the road and without a large-scale threat of encroachment. It's about good small-town fun – fishing all day and rocking on the porch swing at night while chatting with neighbors.

Granbury emphasizes the staples in life: fresh air, listening to the cicadas and grandchildren. And the beauty of it all is that they've opened their town to visitors. This town of just over 5,000 hosts quite a party.

The town began in 1854 and became prosperous when the railroad ran through in the late 1880s. The buildings from this heyday still stand today. After decades of deep decline, the 1970s brought rejuvenation and interest in preserving the town's natural wonders and spirit. Today it is a recreational safety valve for Metroplex residents who need an escape from the city, fashioning itself into a tourist attraction.

For current information you can contact the **Granbury Convention and Visitors Bureau** (100 N.Crockett, 76048, ☎ 800-950-2212, www.granburytx.org, Mon.-Fri., 8 am-6 pm, Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Sun., 11 am-3 pm).

Things to Do

Historic Sites

TOWN SQUARE

As in most small towns, activity flourishes around the town square. The Granbury courthouse town square was the first place in Texas to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. More than 50 specialty shops, boutiques and restaurants, many housed in 1880s historic buildings, are now clustered in the lively area.

JAIL AND HOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

208 N. Crockett, ☎ 817-573-5135,
weekends 1-4 pm

Call ahead and they can arrange special tours during the week.

A jailhouse-turned-museum since 1978, one of the jail's original cell blocks and a hanging tower have been preserved. There's also a collection of artifacts tracing both the city's and the county's history.

GRANBURY HISTORIC RAILROAD DEPOT

109 E. Ewell, ☎ 817-573-2557,
Tues. & Thurs., noon-4 pm, Sat., 10 am-3 pm

The depot hasn't changed much since it was built in 1914 – a true representation of early rural Texas. The Hood County Genealogy Society runs the show here and uses the building to house the association's growing archive, which is also free to the public to peruse.

GRANBURY CEMETERY

N. Crockett and Moore

A trip to the Granbury Cemetery might seem morbid, but it is also an education. Jesse James was laid to

rest here, as was General Hiram Granbury (Granberry), a commander of the Civil War Texas Brigade who lent his name to the community.

GRANBURY OPERA HOUSE
133 E Pearl, ☎ 817-573-9191
www.granburyoperahouse.org

The Granbury Opera House, originally built in 1886, then restored and reopened in 1975, sat empty for over six decades before its rebirth. It's now a cultural and social center, hosting musicals, plays and dramas almost year-round. It draws visitors from throughout the region and plays to capacity crowds. During the spring and fall, shows take place Friday through Sunday. During the summer, the shows are on Thursdays.

Evening shows are at 8 pm and matinees begin at 2 pm.

Museums & Galleries

GREAT RACE HALL OF FAME
114 N. Crockett, ☎ 817-573-5200,
www.greatrace.com,
Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm, Sat. & Sun., noon-5 pm

The Great Race, a transcontinental, timed rally race including up to 120 vintage vehicles, has been speeding along the back roads of America for almost two decades. Each year, over 100 cars and crews test the stamina of automobiles built between 1905 and 1960 on various coast-to-coast journeys.

Headquarters for this great race is Granbury, Texas, and the hall of fame pays tribute to races and vehicles of the past. It also includes a resource library and sells Great Race merchandise. Texas has its own three-day regional race that begins and ends in Granbury each April.

Call ahead to make sure someone's there to let you in. While they keep pretty regular hours, the opening times aren't set in stone.

THE WINDMILL FARM
6625 Colony Rd., Tolar, 5 miles south of Granbury on Hwy. 377, west on Colony Road, ☎ 254-835-4168

There are 26 windmills for 26 acres. You can drive through any day from sun-up to sundown, and guided tours are available upon request.

Each windmill has been restored to its original condition. New ones are being added as they are restored.

Shopping

Over 50 specialty shops surround the Granbury town square, selling antiques, books, crafts and artwork. Antique collectors have found Granbury to their liking, traveling each weekend to peruse the stores.

BOOKS ON THE SQUARE
124 N. Houston, ☎ 800-841-5309, 817-573-9672

The Texana selection at this bookstore/souvenir shop is extensive and pays tribute to many of the area's local writers. The shop also sells Texas souvenirs, gifts and collectibles.

GRANBURY SAMPLER
102 N. Houston, ☎ 817-573-1335, 7 days, 10 am-6 pm

In addition to its own private label, which includes 30 different varieties of gourmet food that range from peach cobbler jam to honey butter to garlic salsa, the Sampler carries several exclusive lines of gifts, candles and novelties. There's also homemade fudge. They can ship anywhere in the United States.

Adventure

Much of Granbury's attraction is in its close relationship with the verdant river valleys that flow through the area. A crook in Lake Granbury wraps itself around downtown, giving almost every store, restaurant and hotel a lake view.

LAKE GRANBURY
☎ 817-573-3212, 817-573-1407

With a shoreline of 33 miles, the lake is a favorite. Water-skiers wake at dawn to play on its calm long stretches. Fishermen hunt down black bass, catfish and stripers in all the lake's crannies. There's also canoeing and swimming in the four parks operated by the Brazos River Authority.

If you need any help with fishing, or want to tap local knowledge for the big catches, there are a variety of fishing guides and services for hire. Call the **Convention And Visitors Bureau** (☎ 800-950-2212, 817-573-5548) for the most current information.

You can rent pontoon boats during the summer months at **McKelvey's Marina Boat Rentals & Public Fishing** (☎ 817-573-3698). You'll need to bring your own fishing equipment, though.

SQUAW CREEK RESERVOIR
2300 Coates Rd off Hwy 144 South,
☎ 817-573-7053, 279-1657

Just south of town, you'll find another watering hole of note. Squaw Creek Reservoir comes complete with scuba diving, fishing, boating and tent camping. The reservoir is privately owned so it has remained very secluded and primitive. Whatever you need for the day should be brought with you. At night, they restrict all access to the small lake. Because they limit its use,

the area has remained natural and there is plenty of wildlife.

PALUXY RIVER

A navigable and popular portion of the Paluxy River borders the southern edge of Granbury. There are a variety of rock shelves, chutes and falls for tubing adventurists. Because much of the land surrounding this portion of river is privately owned and subject to change (they could put up fences, etc.), you should talk to a local outfitter before making plans.

The first put in is at Highway 67. The last place to get out (4.8 miles later) before the Paluxy joins the Brazos River is the **Tres Rios RV River Resort and Campground** (☎ 254-897-4253, www.tresrios.com). They can usually answer your questions about current river conditions and provide information about where to put in and take out. In addition to room for 350 RVs, they have close to 50 cabins for rent and several bunk-style buildings. Tres Rios also rents canoes and tubes. They sell fishing permits as well and offer horse and pony rides. Their petting zoo is free. They also outfit Squaw Creek and the Brazos River.

ACTON STATE PARK

Two miles north of Granbury on Farm Rd. 4,
Call Cleburne State Park for information ☎ 817-645-4215

Just up the road, you'll find the Acton State, the smallest state park in Texas with .01 acres. Bluebonnets flourish here in the springtime. Elizabeth P. Crockett, the second wife of Davy Crockett, moved to Acton after her husband's death at the Alamo. Her gravesite is memorialized at the Acton Cemetery. There are no facilities and the park is for day-use only.

GRANBURY CARRIAGE COMPANY
On the Square, ☎ 817-279-6272, 817-558-3536

Weekend carriage rides through the historic Granbury district. Call for details and reservations.

With the Kids

BRAZOS OLD-FASHIONED DRIVE IN & CINEMA
1☎ 800 W Pearl, ☎ 817-573-1311

For just as much entertainment and a touch of fresh air, take your lawn chair to the Brazos Old-Fashioned Drive In & Cinema, where you can sit beneath the stars and soak in some family entertainment in an authentic '50s drive-in. Shows are on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Each double feature includes an early family movie and a later adult movie.

DINOSAUR VALLEY STATE PARK
FM 205 five miles west of Glen Rose,
☎ 254-897-4588

The area surrounding Granbury is famous in dinosaur circles for its abundant and well-preserved traces of the earth's earlier tenants. The **Creation Museum** (FM 205 West of Glen Rose, ☎ 254-897-3200) was founded in 1982 by archeologist Carl Baugh to examine both scientific and religious evidence of man's and dinosaur's early presence. Dinosaur Valley State Park is touted as having some of the best-preserved dinosaur tracks in Texas. In addition to the tracks, there are facilities for camping, hiking and picnicking.

Reservations are highly recommended for camping at this popular park. To make them you'll need to contact the **Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.** at ☎ 512-389-8900, or you can make them online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

The park is open for day-use from 8 am to 10 pm.

THE GULCH AT GRANBURY
5100 E. Hwy 377, ☎ 817-579-1515

Times vary with the season, so call ahead.

Ever shot par at a golf course? You can at the Gulch, the largest miniature course in the world. Eighteen wild holes are spread out over three acres. There are also batting cages, bumper cars, an arcade, sand volleyball and picnic areas at this family entertainment park.

After Dark

GRANBURY LIVE
110 N. Crockett, ☎ 817-573-0303,
www.granburylive.com

The newest addition to the Granbury entertainment scene, this is a 1940s art deco music theater created specifically for family entertainment. Most of the music comes from eras past. Call for specific show information, but there are traditionally shows on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 pm and matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm.

Calendar of Events

March

GEN. GRANBURY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AND BEAN AND RIB COOK-OFF
☎ 800-950-2212 or 817-573-5548

Texas-style fun with arts and crafts, a bean-eating contest, outhouse races and a parade, all on the courthouse square.

April

GREAT RACE TEXAS
☎ 817-573-5200

The Great Race is a three-day road rally through Texas that begins and ends in Granbury. Any car may enter the race.

Restaurants

HENNINGTON'S TEXAS
CAFE AT THE NUTT HOUSE
121 E. Bridge, ☎ 817-573-8400

It's one of the few restaurants in town that garners stars – and lots of them. The eclectic menu boasts some of the finest entrées around.

NIESTER'S GERMAN
RESTAURANT DELI & BAKERY
4426 E. Hwy 377, ☎ 817-573-0211

All the German food you could want (or pronounce). Try the creamy potato soup – it keeps the locals coming back.

RINKY-TINK'S SANDWICH
& ICE CREAM PARLOR
On the Square, 108 N. Houston, ☎ 817-573-4323

It's old-fashioned fun with good low-key food and ice cream to top it off.

Accommodations

THE LODGE OF GRANBURY
Lake Granbury, 401 E. Pearl, 76048,
☎ 817-573-2606, $65-$185 (VIP Suite)

There's also a dock out back and facilities to launch your boat.

Fully equipped condominium units with kitchens. There are meeting rooms available, a pool, hot tub, tennis courts, a bar and live music most nights.

THE NUTT HOUSE HOTEL
121 E. Bridge, 76048,
☎ 817-279-9457, $57-$125 (suite)

A gentle mix of quaint historical (and affordable) rooms, complete with homemade quilts and four-star food from Hennington's Café. The chef's table (five stars) will prepare a special menu just for you. On the square and a block from the lake, so you don't need anything but your two feet. They're aiming for an atmosphere that disappeared long ago, with no phones or televisions in the rooms. Many of the rooms share bathrooms.

The suite is like a mini-apartment.

PLANTATION INN ON LAKE GRANBURY
1451 E Pearl, 76048,
☎ 800-422-2402, 817-573-8846, $48-$95

All of the 53 rooms were recently remodeled.

Each room comes equipped with a refrigerator and coffee maker. Free continental breakfast each morning. Overlooks the lake (but no access), with some rooms offering panoramic views.

ANNA BELL'S VICTORIAN ROSE B&B
404 W. Bridge, 76048, ☎ 800-430-ROSE, 817-579-7673, $59-$95 (weekend)

With five different rooms, they offer a full breakfast and are just a few blocks from the town square. Each room has a private bath. The owners here have also

opened up a new bed and breakfast, Abigail's Painted Lady, with three rooms to rent. You call the same phone number for reservations.

ARBOR HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST
530 E. Pearl, 76048,
☎ 800-641-0073, 817-573-0073, $100-$165 (suites),
30% discount during the week

Some of the seven rooms are equipped with marble jacuzzis. Many of the windows look out over Lake Granbury. Only four blocks from the square, the grounds include a gazebo and rose garden. Each room has a private bath. The owners also run Angel of the Lake, a bed and breakfast on the same property, separated by a garden and gazebo. It has three rooms, several with French doors, that open to a view of Lake Granbury.

Call ahead for reservations.

THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSE B&B
123 W. Doyle, 76048, ☎ 817-579-6664, $98-$141

An 1874 Queen Anne Victorian house with lake access and a large balcony overlooking the lake, the Captain's House is just two blocks from the Square.

They serve breakfast and lunch is provided on the Square

THE DABNEY HOUSE B&B
106 S. Jones, 76048, ☎ 817-579-1260, $70-$105

A country manor within walking distance from the town square, the Dabney House stocks the parlor with movies and its comfortable porch has an old-time swing. There are four rooms downstairs with private baths. Your morning waffles are apt to feature pecans from one of the Dabney House's five pecan trees.

THE DOYLE HOUSE B&B
Lake Granbury, 205 W. Doyle, 76048,
www.doylehouse.com, ☎ 817-573-6492, $105-$140

They've got the best view of the lake, but you have to reserve early if you're going to get one of the three

Children are welcome.

rooms. It was the first bed and breakfast in Granbury and was built by one of Granbury's most important citizens. It backs up to the lake and they've got a fishing pier for their guests.

ELIZABETH CROCKETT B&B
201 W. Pearl, 76048, ☎ 817-573-7208

"Very cozy" is the way many of its guests describe it. The 1880 Queen Anne home offers four rooms with private baths for visitors.

THE IRON HORSE INN B&B
616 Thorp Springs Rd, 76048, ☎ 817-579-5535,
www.theironhorseinn.com. $95-$165

With 7,000 square feet, it still feels like a cattle baron's mansion. It's the largest historic home in town and boasts a shady porch with century-old live oaks and pecan trees. There are seven guest rooms, including a detached cottage and balcony suite, each with private bath.

LAMBERT STREET GUEST HOUSE
215 S. Lambert St, 76049, ☎ 817-578-3094

Two blocks from downtown.

Unhosted, there are two units in this 1930s-style B& B. Both units are very private and perfect for honeymooners. Each is a house in itself and sleeps four people.

OAK TREE FARM B&B
6415 Carmichael Ct, 76049,
☎ 800-326-5595, 817-326-5595

Their visitors come back repeatedly.

They've got four rooms out in the country on 25 acres. The hosts not only serve breakfast, but serve up entertainment as well, performing skits in the morning for their guests.

PEARL STREET INN B&B
319 W. Pearl, 76048, ☎ 888-PEARLST, 817-579-7465, $59-$119 (weekend)

There are five rooms for guests in this antique-filled home, each with private bath. Ask about the Enchanted Evening package. The outdoor hot tub is a guest favorite.

Greenville

Greenville, 45 minutes northeast of Dallas on I-30, very well could have been named for the lush color that covers the area's fertile, dank earth. However, the town of 23,000 received its moniker from Confederate Gen. Thomas Jefferson Green, who achieved only mediocre success and died in the Civil War.

The residents who chose the Greenville settlement chose well, placing it squarely in the middle of Blackland Prairie. The rich earth proved excellent and especially suited for a variety of crops, including cotton. When the railroads arrived in 1880 the town became an agricultural hub. Although the small community has diversified through the years, cotton and other crops remain central to its economy.

Audie Murphy

Greenville's most famous son, Audie Murphy, World War II's most decorated soldier, later became a film star. He was actually born up the road a couple of miles. But it was in Greenville that he enlisted on his 18th birthday.

For more information on the area, call the **Greenville Chamber of Commerce** (713 Stonewall Street, PO Box 1055, 75403, ☎ 903-455-1510, www.greenville-chamber.org).

Things to Do

Museums and Galleries

THE AMERICAN COTTON MUSEUM
600 I-30 east, ☎ 903-450-4502 or 903-454-1990,
www.cottonmuseum.com, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm

The American Cotton Museum not only pays tribute to cotton, but to Audie Murphy and other local celebrities like Voyager copilot Jeana Yeager, baseball pitcher Monty Stratton and Claire Lee Channault, famed captain of the Flying Tigers.

Exhibits explain the complexities of cotton, from planting and growing, to ginning and baling, to finally spinning and weaving. There are two working cotton gin models on display.

It is the only museum in the nation that features an extensive collection of artifacts relating to the American cotton compress industry. Greenville's Farmers and Merchants Cotton Compress was once the largest inland cotton compress in the world, setting a record for most cotton pressed in one day.

AUDIE MURPHY ROOM
At the American Cotton Museum,
600 I-30 east, ☎ 903-450-4502,
Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm

Audie Murphy is immortalized in the Audie Murphy Room through a collection of medals, uniforms and photographs. For Murphy fans – or World War II history buffs – it's a treasure.

Murphy, a Second Lieutenant, was awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, on June 2, 1945. At the time, he was just 20 years old.

He is credited with single-handedly holding off two enemy rifle companies for several hours in eastern France. His 33 medals include three from France and one from Belgium.

As a young handsome American hero, Murphy was quickly swept up by the movie industry. He starred in more than 40 movies, including his own biography, *To Hell and Back*. He died in a plane crash at the age of 46.

Shopping

MARY OF PUDDIN' HILL
201 I-30 East, ☎ 903-455-2651,
www.puddinhill.com/puddin

You probably wouldn't guess that a significant portion of mail order Christmas fruitcakes come from Greenville. Mary of Puddin Hill produces a huge chunk of them, sending out 1.6 million catalogs a year. Mary and Sam Lauderdale began the enterprise in 1948, using an old family recipe for pecan fruitcake. That first year they sold 500 of the handcrafted novelties and they've been growing ever since.

Their recipe is quite simple, including only Texas native pecans, cherries, dates and pineapple, mixed with a light batter. They leave out those "extra" ingredients – like spices, raisins, candied peels and citron – that have given fruitcake an unfortunate reputation.

The majority of the enterprise is dedicated to the mail order business, but there is a store attached for visitors. In addition to serving their famous pies, they offer chocolates, cakes, cookies, candies and lots of other goodies.

Town Square

Shoppers passing through town might want to check out the town square, bounded by Lee St., Stonewall, Washington and Johnson, which boasts a fascinating array of antique shops and boutiques. Greenville has earned a solid reputation as a bargain hunter's dream.

Also, if you continue on Lee St. either way, you'll find plenty of shopping opportunities. Here are just a few of the shops you'll find.

QUILTS & KEEPSAKES
2712 Lee Street, ☎ 903-455-6760

The main attraction here is the hand-crafted quilts. But there's also crystal, flowers, gifts, kitchen accessories, antique furniture and more.

UPTOWN FORUM
2610 Lee Street, ☎ 903-454-3311

The forum includes a collection of 13 shops, boutiques, galleries and restaurants in a multi-level historic building that spent the first 70 years of its life as a department store.

Adventure

HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM & WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
One Nature Place, McKinney, 75069, ☎ 972-562-5566, www.heardmuseum.org,
Mon.-Sat., 9 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm,

The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary has sought to preserve a small portion of the once-vast Texas Blackland Prairie, setting aside 100 acres of what began as 12 million acres. The pre-

serve, which has never been plowed, stands as it did a century ago, with native grasses and wildflowers. Birdwatchers and wildflower lovers are particularly drawn to the site, which serves as a living history of our earth before human involvement.

The actual museum is a result of one woman's passion for collecting. Miss Bessie Heard (1884-1988) was a devout collector of butterflies, nature prints and seashells, among other things. When her collection was too large to fit in her house (especially the butterflies), it was moved to this museum.

There are over five miles of trails throughout the 287-acre wildlife sanctuary. There is also a canoe trail. More than 240 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians and nearly 150 species of wildflowers and other plants are found in the park. Both kids and adults appreciate the outdoor learning center, with its observation deck, a floating study laboratory and a boardwalk.

LAKE TAWAKONI

US 69 southeast 16 miles, ☎ 903-447-3020
(Lake Tawakoni Chamber of Commerce)

Some of the state's best fishing lakes are near Greenville. Lake Tawakoni, with 200 miles of shoreline, is one of Texas' largest lakes, spreading itself over three counties. In addition to fishing, visitors enjoy boating, camping, swimming, beaches, picnic areas and water-skiing. At least 10 different fishing clubs run tournaments from the lake. It boasts an ample supply of striper, catfish and large-mouth bass.

Lake Tawakoni State Park should be open by the time you read this. Plans for the 400-acre park include a swimming beach, 40 picnic sites, a two-lane boat ramp, 78 multi-use campsites, a sewage treatment plant, and trailer pads for long-term guests. You can get current information on the status of the park

by calling the **Texas Parks and Wildlife's Park Information** unit at ☎ 800-792-1112.

There are several private enterprises to outfit your fishing trip on Lake Tawakoni, along with places to stay. One choice is the **Anchor Inn Marina & Resort** (Hwy 276 at Tomahawk, ☎ 903-447-2256), which provides fishing guide service, an on-site restaurant, hotel, cabins, tent sites, two boat ramps and rental facilities for paddleboats, canoes and bikes. Another is the **Walnut Cove Marina & Resort** (off FM 276 on Mays Lane, ☎ 903-447-2865), with a bait and tackle shop, lighted fishing pier, campgrounds, RV hook-ups and wet and dry slips.

Restaurants

THE SPARE RIB
7818 Wesley, ☎ 903-455-0219

You'll smell the food long before you get it – barbecue is baked right into the walls. Regulars love the pork spare ribs, slow-cooked over an old-fashion hickory fire. There's also sausage, smoked turkey and fried ice cream for dessert.

RUBY'S CAFÉ
2308 Lee St., ☎ 903-454-8240

If you want old-fashioned home cooking, try Ruby's, a mainstay in the downtown area. Its menu includes lunch staples: hamburgers, steak fingers, sandwiches and shakes. Open for breakfast and lunch only.

Accommodations

IRON SKILLET INN BED & BREAKFAST
664 Forester, 75401, ☎ 903-455-0074. $65

This recently restored bed and breakfast is a tourist attraction itself. With 5,000 square feet of house and scads of antiques, Bonnie and Clyde, as well as World War II hero Audie Murphy, all stayed here at one point.

According to its owners, it is also home to a friendly ghost. The legend begins with a Mrs. Williams divorcing her husband because he couldn't or wouldn't provide the finer things, and marrying another man who could quench her worldly tastes. Mr. Williams then proceeded to build this 5,000-square-foot mansion. The second man mysteriously disappeared, leaving Mrs. Williams free to remarry Mr. Williams and take up residence in the massive abode. A walled-in fireplace within the house, legend has it, was the final resting spot for the jilted man. His spirit, supposedly, still wanders the house.

Waxahachie

Formally incorporated in 1871, Waxahachie was a thriving town when the first railroad arrived in 1879, ensuring the town's continued growth. Its name derives from an Indian word, meaning cow (or buffalo) creek. During the next 40 years, before the Depression, elegant buildings and beautiful Victorian homes were built. They survive today, with the Ellis County Courthouse being the most distinctive of them all.

Notable characters who called Waxahachie home include **Bessie Coleman**, who was born in Atlanta but grew up here – the first black person in the world to become a licensed pilot in 1921. The US Post Office issued a commemorative stamp honoring her in 1995. **Paul Richards**, a baseball player and manager for a number of professional teams, including the Texas Rangers, also called Waxahachie home.

Call the **Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau** (☎ 972-937-2390) for additional or more current information.

Things to Do

Historic Places

ELLIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Faces Main Street (Hwy. 287 Business), surrounded by Franklin College
Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm

A Romanesque Revival building completed in 1896, this is one of the most striking county courthouses in Texas. Perhaps the its most unusual features are the

female faces carved into its exterior. Local legend claims the faces tell an ill-fated love story. Supposedly, Harry Herley, the carver, fell in love with his innkeeper's daughter, Mabel. At the beginning, he carved her face as a beautiful, shining beacon. When she rejected him, legend suggests, his carvings grew more ugly and disturbing. Mabel eventually married another man, but the carvings survive.

The courthouse is made of pink granite and Pecos red sandstone. The central tower acted originally as a flue, circulating air throughout the building. The wind-up mechanism that drives the massive clock weighs 250 pounds, with the bell-striker exceeding 800 pounds.

ELLIS COUNTY MUSEUM
201 South College, ☎ 972-937-0681,
Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm

Historical artifacts, toys, pictures and furniture of times past are used to chronicle the history of the Waxahachie region. All of the items were donated by county residents, creating a hodge-podge of unusual exhibits. One resident donated an extensive collection of folding fans, the earliest dating back to the 1750s. The museum is housed in a restored 19th-century building and is on the corner of the town square. It also serves as a surrogate visitors center since the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce is not located downtown. The museum includes an entire corner of local literature and its staff can usually help you find what you need.

CHAUTAUQUA AUDITORIUM
S. Grand Ave., Getzendaner Park,
Open during special events

The auditorium is a rare survivor of the Chautauqua circuit, which brought live religious and cultural entertainment to rural towns across America during the

early 20th century. Built in 1902, the auditorium is still used for special events and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its octagonal shape, which was tent-inspired, could accommodate 5,000 spectators: 2,500 seated, 1,500 standing and 1,000 outside. During its heyday, it saw the likes of William Jennings Bryan, John Philip Sousa and Will Rogers. It is the sole remaining octagonal Chautauqua Auditorium in the country. Interest in the circuit faded with the advent of radio.

GINGERBREAD TRAIL OF HOMES
First full weekend in June, ☎ 972-937-0681

For more than three decades, Waxahachie has opened up its doors for a walking tour of the city. They kick off the celebration on Saturday with a Main Street Parade and continue through the weekend with an arts & crafts festival, vintage auto show and antique show. The main attractions, of course, are the gingerbread houses that line Waxahachie's streets. For many of the houses, this is the only time during the year that they are open to visitors. The Ellis County Museum sponsors the event. You can also call the **Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce** for information (☎ 972-937-2390).

Shopping

Downtown Waxahachie has become a magnet for antiquers, hosting a number of antique shops. There are also plenty of places to buy gifts and eat a delicious lunch.

GINGERBREAD ANTIQUE MALL
310 S. College St., ☎ 972-937-0968

Open seven days a week, the Gingerbread offers Victorian furniture, antiques and collectibles.

LINK TO THE PAST HOUSE OF ANTIQUES
512 N. College St., ☎ 972-937-1421

Link to the Past makes it easy to imagine how antiques and furniture might look in your own home, with its products spread out along the bottom story of a magnificent 1904 home. In addition to antiques, there are gifts and decorative pieces. Even if you're not interested in buying what they have to offer, it's a good opportunity to see one of Waxahachie's massive homes. While the architecture is prairie-style, the 4,300-square-foot home presents a more Victorian presence, with a green roof accentuating its pink exterior.

THE DOVE'S NEST RESTAURANT AND ANTIQUES
105 Jefferson St., ☎ 972-938-DOVE (3683)

In addition to a wide selection of gifts and antiques, the Dove's Nest is a good place to stop for an afternoon snack or lunch.

Adventure

TEXAS MOTORPLEX
US 287 between Waxahachie and Ennis,
www.texasmotorplex.com, ☎ 972-878-2641

Built in 1986, the Texas Motorplex has seen its share of drag racing records. It is 500 feet above sea level and the weather is clear almost year-round. Many milestones have been reached at this track. Each October, the Motorplex hosts the O'Reilly Nationals. Just about every weekend from February to early November you'll find some kind of drag racing here. Call or check their website for current events.

SCARBOROUGH FAIRE
1-35E, exit 399A, www.scarboroughrenfest.com,
☎ 972-938-3247

For more than 20 years, maidens and knights have reunited each year at this Renaissance festival. Over 100 craft persons demonstrate their wares at their shoppes, including blacksmithing, glassblowing, coin pressing, pottery, weaving, lampworking, printing, and type casting. Shows include *Isis and the Star Dancers*, *The Royal Falconer*, jousting, gypsies and *Zilch the Tory Stellar*. Games include *Drench a Wench, Fight a Knight* and the *Axe Throw*.

The fair opens in mid-April and usually runs eight weekends through Memorial Day.

Restaurants

CREOLA CAFÉ
200 S. Rogers St. ☎ 972-938-2290

One of the most recent additions to the Waxahachie lineup, Creola Café serves up spicy Cajun fare. It's only open for lunch from Tuesday to Saturday and for dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings.

THE CRAZY HORSE CAFÉ & BAKERY
103 E. Main St., ☎ 972-938-9818

This restaurant, featuring fresh seafood, filet mignon, pasta and game dishes, garners stars in restaurant reviews. There are also blackboard specials that change weekly. The Crazy Horse is part of the Old Rogers Hotel, which just completed a renovation in the summer of 2000. It had been unoccupied since the 1940s.

THE DOVE'S NEST
RESTAURANT & ANTIQUES
105 Jefferson St., ☎ 972-938-DOVE (3683)

A good place to have lunch when you're browsing the downtown antique stores.

THE 1879 TOWNHOUSE
RESTAURANT & BAKERY
1100 E. College, ☎ 972-937-7261

There's also live entertainment every Saturday evening until midnight.

The menu here is completely home-cooked, from the chicken fried steak, blackened catfish and veggies, to the German Chocolate cake and cherry cream pie. Many of the blackboard specials include all-you-can-eat options. Make sure you leave room for dessert.

Accommodations

BONNY NOOK INN
414 W. Main St., ☎ 972-938-7207, $65-$85 week, $85-$115 weekend

Bonny Nook Inn, the first B&B in town, includes lots of little extras in each room. Like cookies, mints and fresh flowers. Three of the five rooms include king beds and whirlpool tubs. The other two feature queen beds and traditional claw-foot tubs. You can either hang out on the porch or in the parlor, or walk two blocks to downtown Waxahachie. Several guests have said they've seen the house's resident spirit, believed to be Mrs. West, a long-time resident of the house who met her untimely death when her oven exploded. (Dr. West remarried her sister only a few months later.) Bonny Nook also serves a romantic seven-course meal by reservation ($45/person), which lasts a full two hours.

THE CHASKA HOUSE
716 W. Main St., www.chaskabb.com,
☎ 972-937-3390, ☎ 800-931-3390, $100

In addition to spacious rooms with sitting areas and private baths, visitors will enjoy the Chaska House's library, grand hall, formal dining room, wrap-around veranda and shady grounds. The bed and breakfast is just a few blocks from the town square. The Chaska hosts also offer two private self-sufficiency guest cottages fashioned after Ernest Hemingway's home in Key West. Hidden behind bamboo hedges, overlooking a courtyard, each cottage includes a galley kitchen, hardwood floors, TV, VCR and stereo. Guests can come next door to the Chaska House for breakfast each morning.

If you're planning an extended stay in Waxahachie, they have a beautiful executive guesthouse available with a one-month minimum stay.

THE HARRISON B&B
717 W. Main St., ☎ 972-938-1922,
$110-$140 (cottage)

In 1915, James Wright Harrison built this stately home for his bride. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Harrison stands proudly as one of the finest homes on Main Street. Five guest accommodations are tastefully decorated with European antiques, fabrics and heirlooms. One suite has a private entrance from the veranda and a fireplace in the study. The Rendezvous Cottage is private and appealing, especially popular with honeymooners.

THE ROSEMARY MANSION
903 W. Main St., ☎ 972-935-9439,
$100 week, $145 weekends

Built in 1916 and designed by C.W. Bulger, known for the first steel-framed Dallas skyscraper, this Geor-

gian Revival mansion is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a spectacular site.

With two rooms and three suites, all with private bathrooms, the country-scented Geranium Suite features a huge sitting room (the original sleeping porch) overlooking the back gardens. The French Lavender Bridal Suite is enormous and exquisitely furnished. The Garden View Cottage overlooks the back gardens, which include ponds, streams and a lush array of trees and plants.

RAMADA LIMITED

795 S. IH-35 East, ☎ 972-937-4982, $50

In each room there is cable television, a microwave and refrigerator. There's also a pool and hot tub on the premises. They offer a free continental breakfast each morning to guests.

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